PI-NATSU GA IPPAI

BY: YACHI EMIKO

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ASUKA COMICS

PI-NATSU GA IPPAI

YACHI EMIKO

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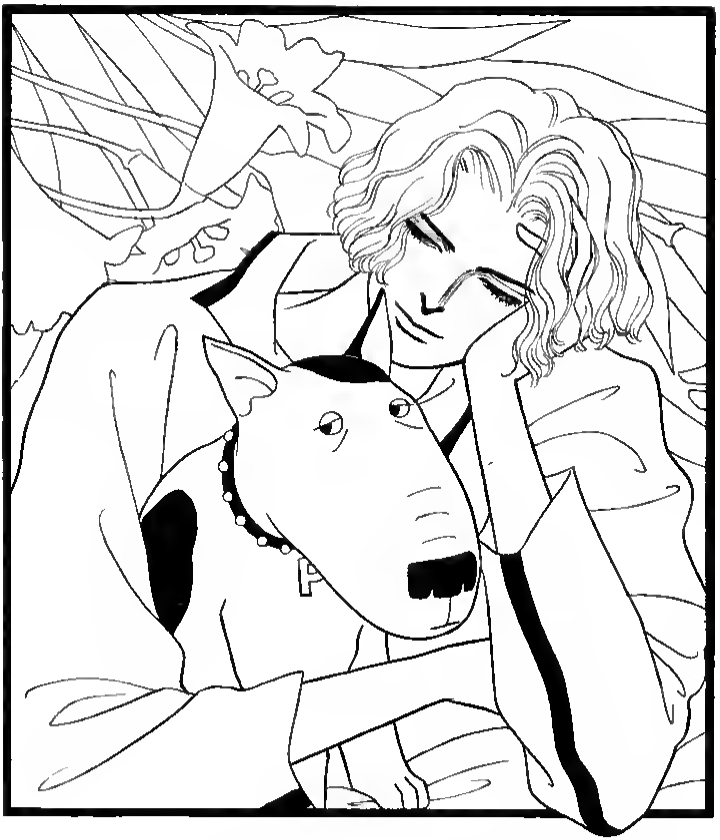
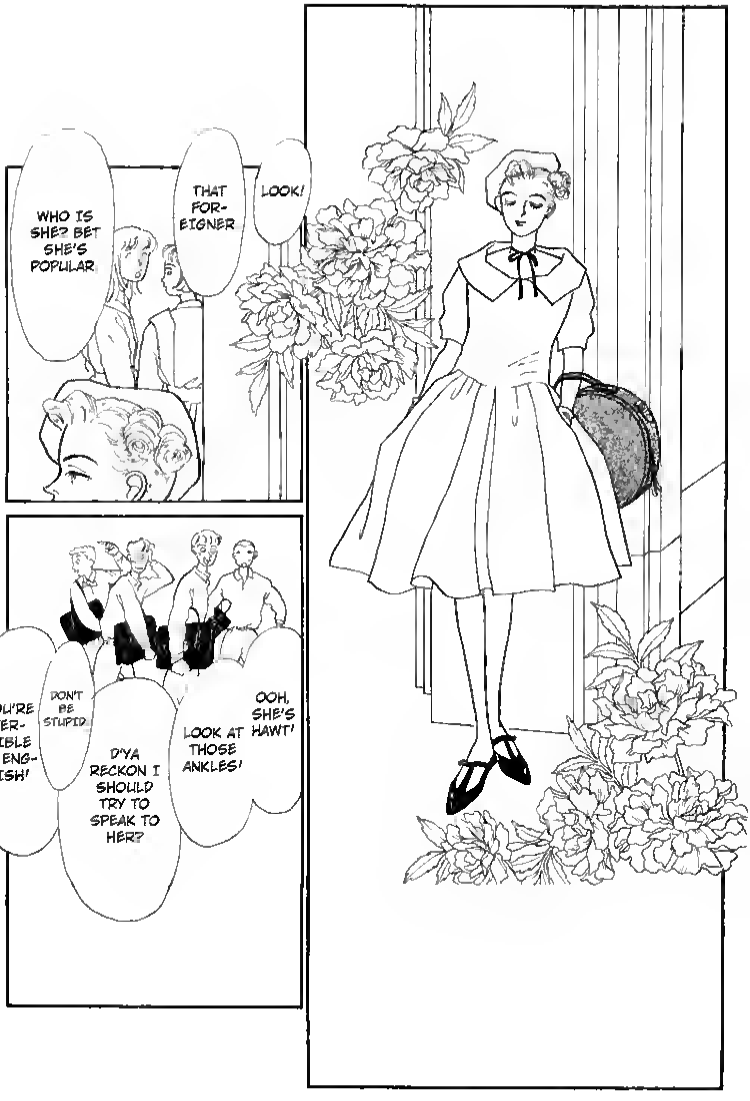


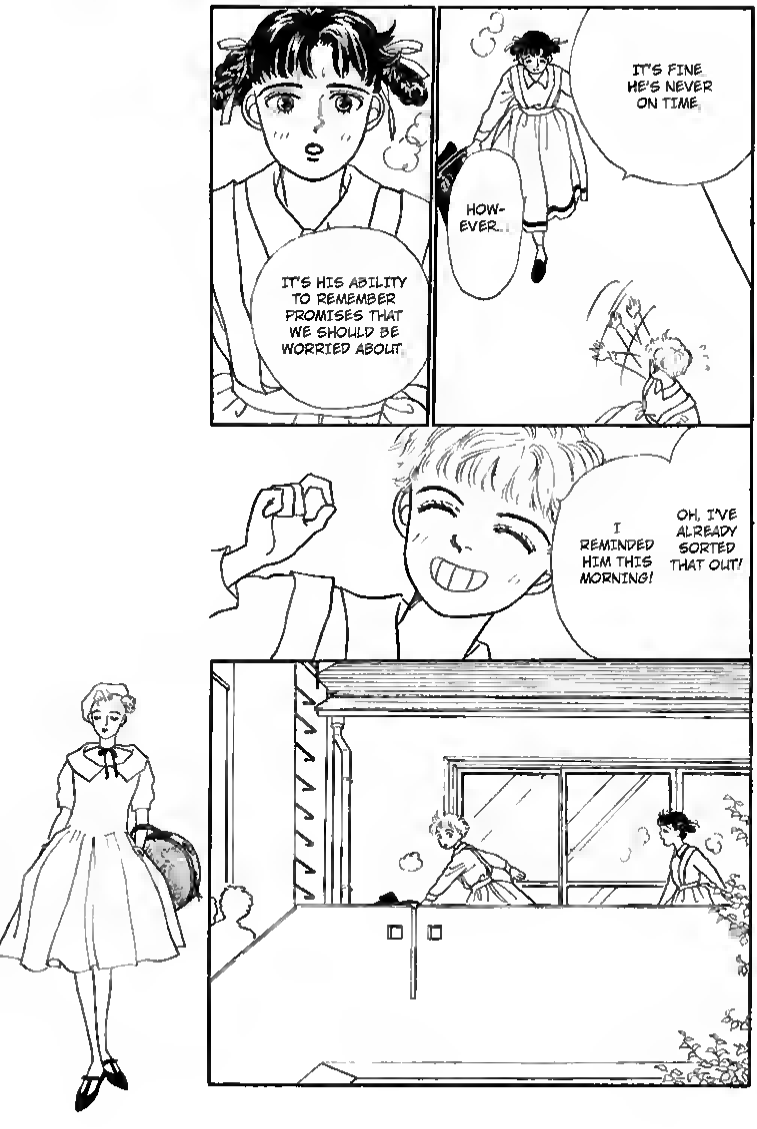
THE SUMMER I'LL SHARE TOGETHER WITH RUI-KUN... I'M STILL HOPING IT WILL START TODAY!
BUT SUMMER IS ENDING
SOMEBODY GOT IN THE WAY


LOOK!
THAT FOR-EIGNER
WHO IS SHE? BET SHE'S POPULAR
OOH, SHE'S HAWT!
LOOK AT THOSE ANKLES!
D'YA RECKON I SHOULD TRY TO SPEAK TO HER?
DON'T BE STUPID
YOU'RE TER-RIBLE AT ENG-LISH!

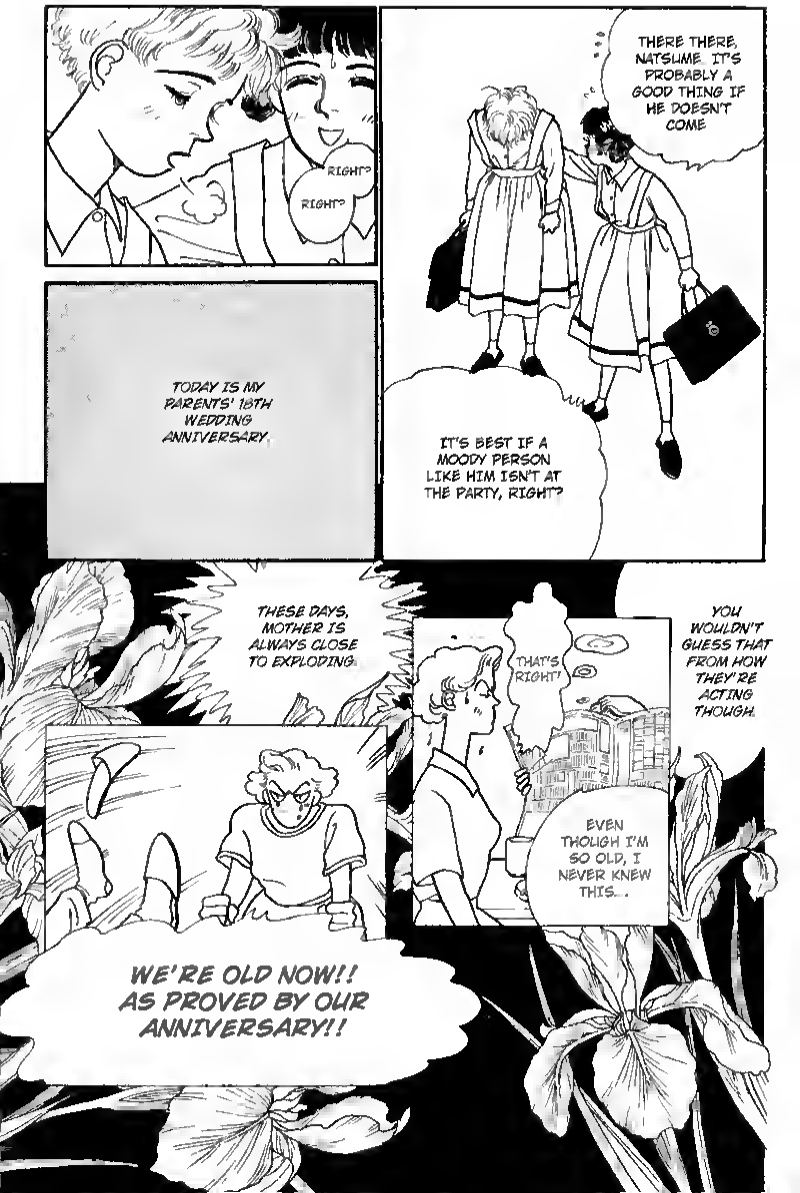
わあぁぁ
AW, DON'T BE SHY!
GO SPEAK TO THE FOR-EIGNER
SEN-SEI!
GET OFF ME, WHY SHOULD I?!
His voice has left him.
H..
HAWC.
にこっ
Hi
YOU?
AHH.
CAN I..
AHH...
CAN I..
HELP

RUI!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
?
AGAIN...

Dammit! Why didn't you tell me she could speak Japanese, you little...
Ouch
Ouch
YOU PROMISED ME, DIDN'T YOU?
THAT THIS SATURDAY YOU'D ACCOMPANY ME TO THE ROAD SHOW
JUST AS I THOUGHT, YOU FORGOT
THANK GOODNESS I CAME TO GET YOU
.....
OH, YEAH.
BUT TODAY IS KINDA
CHIYAKO!!
HURRY UP, HURRY UP!!
RUI-KUN WILL BE WAITING!

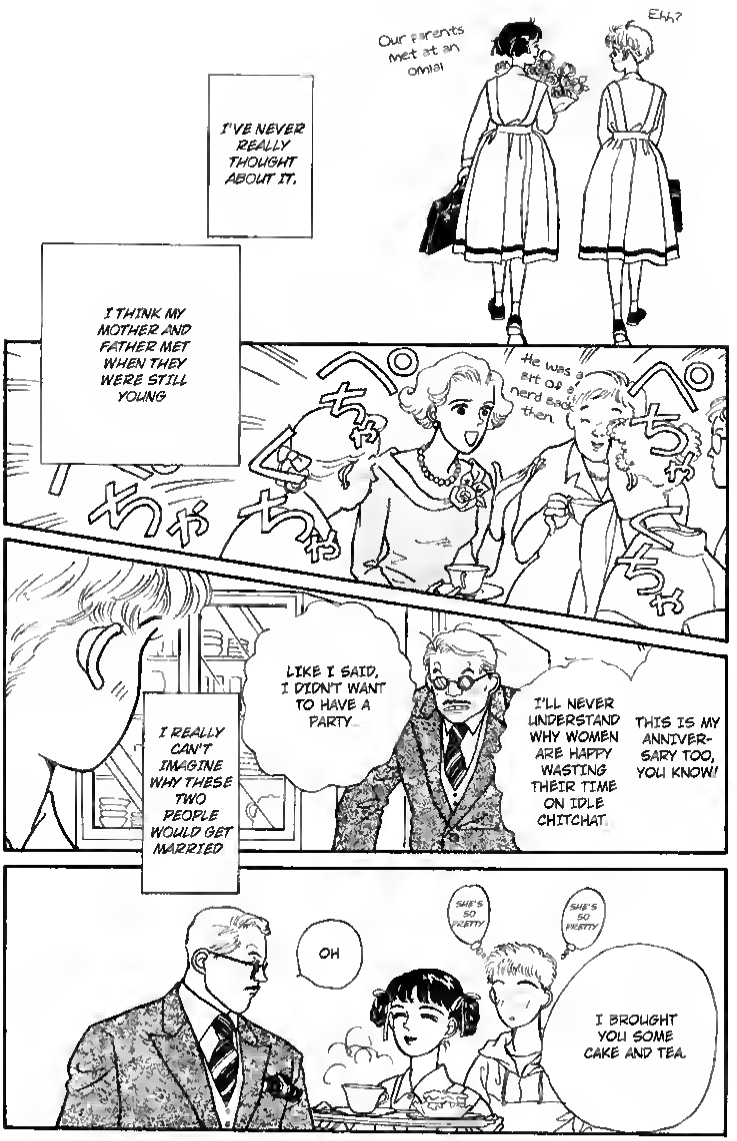

IT'S HIS ABILITY TO REMEMBER PROMISES THAT WE SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT.
HOW-EVER...
IT'S FINE. HE'S NEVER ON TIME.
I REMINDED HIM THIS MORNING!
OH, I'VE ALREADY SORTED THAT OUT!

SEE? TOLD YOU HE'D BE WAITING!
AH
OH, NOOO!!
THAT'S DINA
TSK
SHE'S TAKING HIM WITH HER..
.....
.....

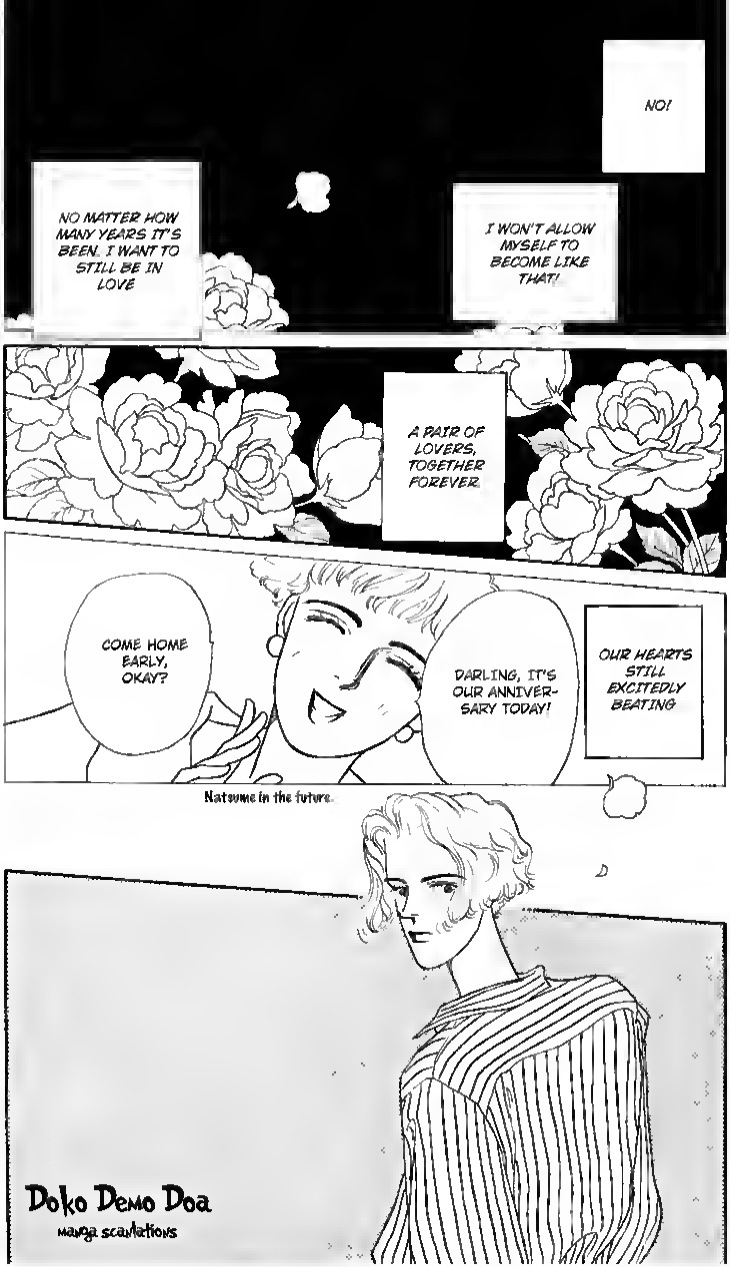

RIGHT?
RIGHT?
TODAY IS MY PARENTS' 18TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.
THERE THERE, NATSUME. IT'S PROBABLY A GOOD THING IF HE DOESN'T COME
IT'S BEST IF A MOODY PERSON LIKE HIM ISN'T AT THE PARTY, RIGHT?
THESE DAYS, MOTHER IS ALWAYS CLOSE TO EXPLODING.
THAT'S RIGHT?
YOU WOULDN'T GUESS THAT FROM HOW THEY'RE ACTING THOUGH.
EVEN THOUGH I'M SO OLD, I NEVER KNEW THIS...
WE'RE OLD NOW!! AS PROVED BY OUR ANNIVERSARY!!

NOTHING GOOD HAS HAPPENED IN THESE PAST 18 YEARS. WHY DID I HAVE TO MARRY SUCH A BUMBLING FOOL OF A MAN?
I SHOULD DIVORCE HIM WHILE I STILL CAN!
H... HEY NOW, CALM DOWN...
OH!
ISN'T THAT A BIT TOO MUCH?
YEAH! LET'S THROW A PARTY!
WE COULD HAVE A LITTLE CELEBRATION WITH THE FAMILY...
Graduating
THAT'S A WONDERFUL IDEA! LET'S THROW A PARTY AND INVITE EVERYONE WE KNOW!
WOW, I HAVE MY HEART SET ON THROWING A PARTY NOW!
I BETTER START WRITING OUT INVITATIONS!
H... HANG ON.
THE PARTY
JUST BE WITH THE FAMILY...?
CAN'T
AND MAKE A NEW DRESS
CAN I INVITE CHIYAKO AND SOME OTHERS?
OF COURSE YOU CAN, DEAR. YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF THEIR INVITATIONS. INVITE AS MANY PEOPLE AS YOU LIKE, OKAY?
GRRR... WOMEN!!

UGH! THEY'RE SO EXPENSIVE!
I GUESS 300 YEN FOR A LUNCH IS FINE.
IT'S FOR YOUR PARENTS' WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, AFTER ALL
HOW DID THEY GET TOGETHER? WAS IT AN OMIAI*? DID THEY FALL IN LOVE?
*An omiai is a meeting between two unmarried people. It is somewhat similar to a blind date.
HMMM...
I HAVE NO IDEA.


Our parents met at an omiai
Eh?
I'VE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
I THINK MY MOTHER AND FATHER MET WHEN THEY WERE STILL YOUNG
He was a bit of a nerd back then
LIKE I SAID, I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE A PARTY.
I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY WOMEN ARE HAPPY WASTING THEIR TIME ON IDLE CHITCHAT.
THIS IS MY ANNIVERSARY TOO, YOU KNOW!
I REALLY CAN'T IMAGINE WHY THESE TWO PEOPLE WOULD GET MARRIED
OH
SHE'S SO PRETTY
SHE'S SO PRETTY
I BROUGHT YOU SOME CAKE AND TEA.

THIS ONE'S A REAL BEAUTY
YOU HAVE GOOD TASTE IN FRIENDS, NATSUME
HEY, DID YOU AND MOTHER GET MARRIED AFTER FALLING IN LOVE?
I feel like a customer in a cafe...
TH... THANKS!
WOW...
WHY ARE YOU GETTING ALL AWKWARD?
カチャン
WILL I BE JUST LIKE THEM AFTER 18 YEARS OF MARRIAGE?
IN MY HOPES AND DREAMS I'M NOT
THAT WAS LIKE 100 YEARS AGO THERE'S NO NEED TO BRING UP THE PAST.
STUPID WOMAN
NO, ONLY 18 YEARS AGO


NO!
I WON'T ALLOW MYSELF TO BECOME LIKE THAT!
NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS IT'S BEEN, I WANT TO STILL BE IN LOVE
A PAIR OF LOVERS, TOGETHER FOREVER
COME HOME EARLY, OKAY?
DARLING, IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY TODAY!
OUR HEARTS STILL EXCITEDLY BEATING
Natsume in the future.
D
Doko Demo Doa
manga scanlations

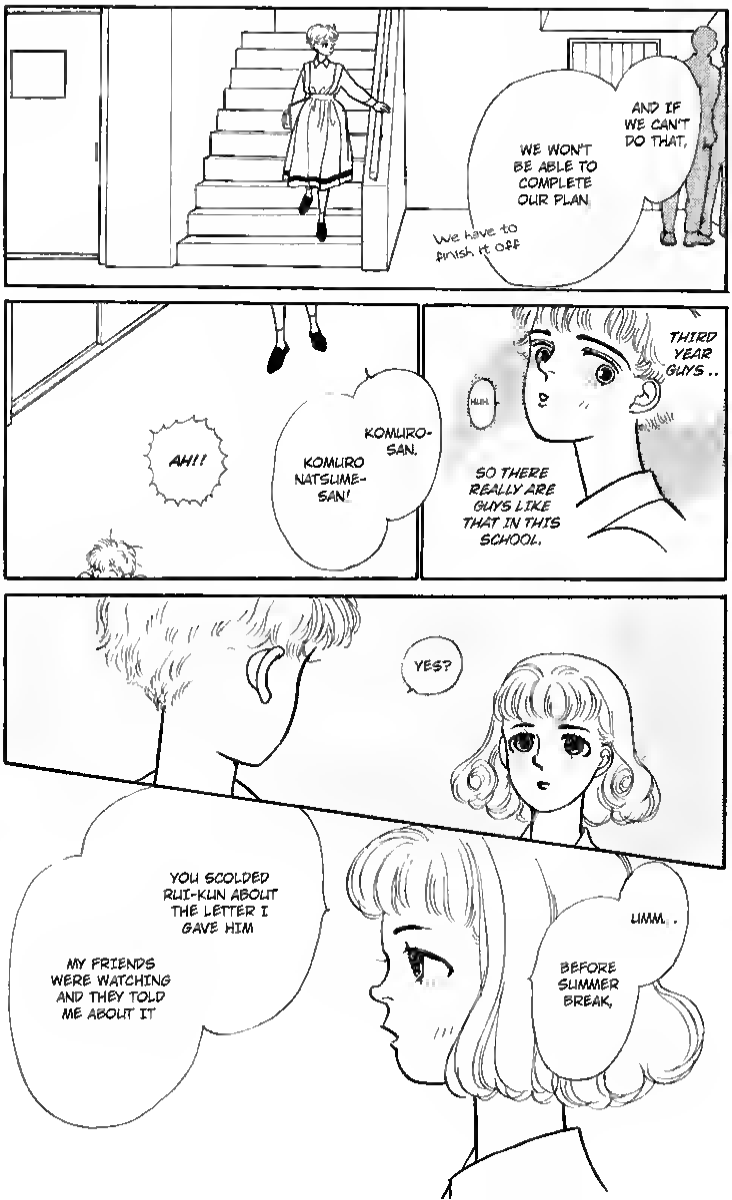
OOPS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ARRANGE-MENTS, AR-RANGEMENTS... I MADE TOO MANY TO KEEP IN MY HEAD
THAT I DIDN'T GO WITH YOU AND CHIYAKO YESTERDAY
ARE YOU ANGRY WITH ME?
HUH?
AH... NOTHING, HAHA...
I'M AT CHIYAKO'S HOUSE
WHAT A GOOD KID HE IS.
How does that make him a good kid?
EHH? HE DIDN'T FORGET ABOUT ME AFTER ALL...
I WAS PLANNING TO GO TO YOUR THING AFTER DINA'S, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE YOUR HOUSE WAS

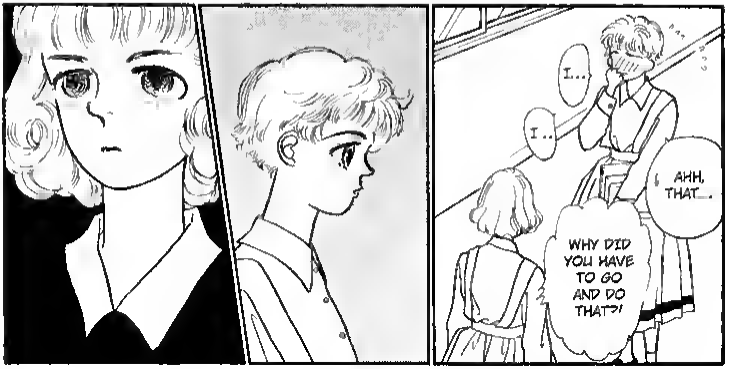
IF YOU HAD COME, YOU WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE BEEN PUSHED AROUND IN A ROOM FULL OF OLD LADIES.
I SEE
THE PARTY WAS A DISAPPOINTMENT FROM THE START. IT'S PROBABLY A GOOD THING YOU DIDN'T COME
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WHAT, YOU'VE ALREADY FORGIVEN HIM? YOU'RE WEAK, NATSUME.
HEE HEE HEE
Sorry to keep you waiting! I burnt the cookies

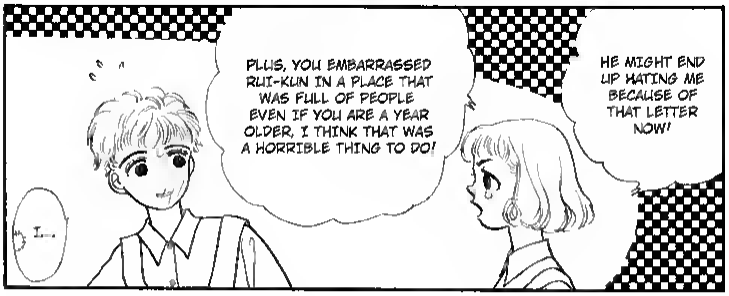
R R R...
HELLO, THIS IS THE YAMABE HOUSE-HOLD.
RUI, IT'S FOR YOU. FROM THE BT CORPO-RATION.
UGH!
AGAIN?! TELL THEM TO LEAVE ME ALONE!
TELL THEM YOURSELF, RUI. UNTIL THEY HEAR IT DIRECTLY FROM YOU, THEY WON'T LET UP.
JEEZ.
WHAT IS THE BT CORPO-RATION?
IT'S RUI'S MODELING AGENCY.
APPARENTLY, HE'S DOING A JOB FOR SOME BRAND CALLED KITANO'S COLLECTION NEXT WEEK
COLLECTION?
A FASHION SHOW?!

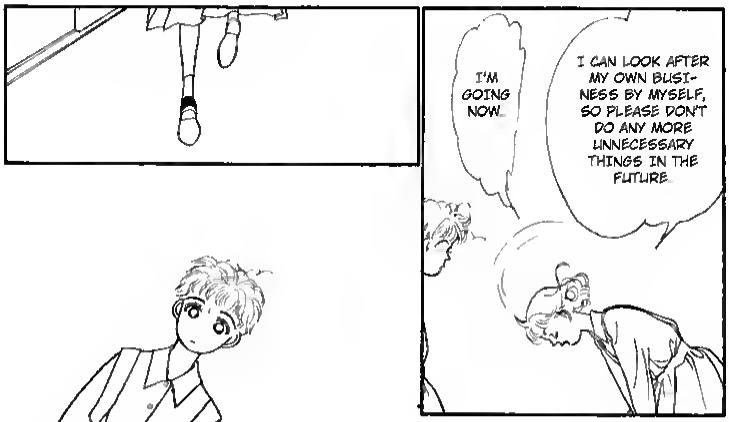
AND RUI'S GOT THE JOB?
WELL, HE SEES HIS MODELING AGENCY AS JUST ANOTHER PAIN IN THE ASS
ONCE, HE HAD A JOB WITH THE BIG-SHOT DESIGNER JEAN ARNULLE. AND RUI STOOD HIM UP. SO YOU NEVER KNOW
STOOD HIM.
UP?
THEY'VE BEEN PHONING TO REMIND ABOUT THIS EVERYDAY FOR A MONTH
THEY'VE BEEN VERY PERSIS-TENT. BUT HE REFUSES TO CONFIRM THAT HE'LL BE THERE
WELL, IF THEY CAN'T DEPEND ON HIM, THEN THEY MIGHT JUST STOP USING HIM AS A MODEL
どきん
どきん
FASHION SHOW...

WOW...
どきん
どきん
RUI-KUN ON A CAT-WALK...
どきん
I WANT TO SEE THAT!
WE HAVE TO DO SOME-THING ABOUT THAT ANNOYING GUY.
THE GIRLS ARE ALWAYS JUMPING AROUND HIM LIKE "KYA! KYA!". SO AT THIS RATE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET CLOSE TO HIM

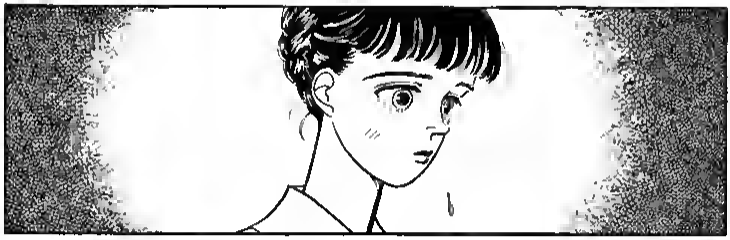

We have to finish it off
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO COMPLETE OUR PLAN.
AND IF WE CAN'T DO THAT,
AH!!
KOMURO NATSUME-SAN!
KOMURO-SAN.
HUH.
THIRD YEAR GUYS..
SO THERE REALLY ARE GUYS LIKE THAT IN THIS SCHOOL.
YES?
YOU SCOLDED RUI-KUN ABOUT THE LETTER I GAVE HIM
MY FRIENDS WERE WATCHING AND THEY TOLD ME ABOUT IT
UMM..
BEFORE SUMMER BREAK,

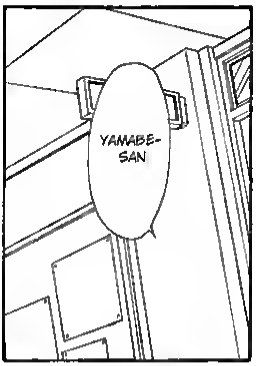

I...
I...
AHH, THAT...
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO AND DO THAT?!

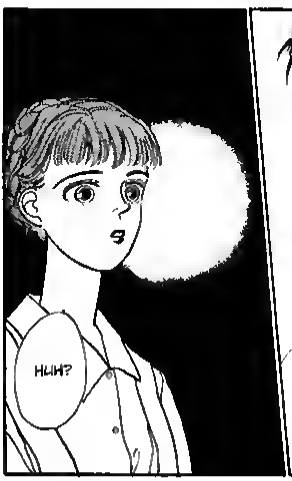

PLUS, YOU EMBARRASSED RUI-KUN IN A PLACE THAT WAS FULL OF PEOPLE EVEN IF YOU ARE A YEAR OLDER, I THINK THAT WAS A HORRIBLE THING TO DO!
HE MIGHT END UP HATING ME BECAUSE OF THAT LETTER NOW!
I...

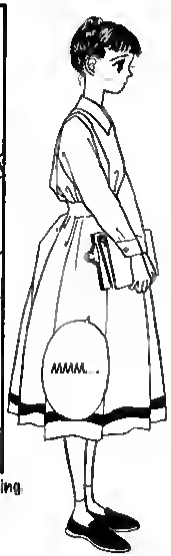

I'M GOING NOW.
I CAN LOOK AFTER MY OWN BUSINESS BY MYSELF, SO PLEASE DON'T DO ANY MORE UNNECESSARY THINGS IN THE FUTURE.

CLASS 2F!
IT'S YOUR TURN YOU HAVEN'T TOLD US WHAT YOU'LL BE DOING FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL YET
WELL...
MY CLASS WOULD LIKE TO HOLD A TEAROOM.
JUST HURRY UP AND PICK SOME OTHER ACTIVITY AND STOP BEING SO TROUBLE-SOME
OR THE COMMIT-TEE MEMBERS WILL DECIDE FOR YOU
CUT IT OUT ALREADY
BUT...
CLASS A ARE ALREADY HOLDING ONE OF THOSE, SO PLEASE DECIDE ON SOME-THING ELSE.
I WAS JUST SAYING WHAT HAD TO BE SAID
THE GROUPS HAVE ALREADY MET ONCE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO DECIDE
...
FUNAHASHI-KUN, PLEASE DON'T SPEAK UNLESS YOU'RE ASKED TO
In any case, you're just here as a substitute.
IF CLASS F WANTS TO HOLD A TEAROOM, THEY CAN, CAN'T THEY? ANYWAY, IT'S UP TO CLASS A TO DECIDE









*Takoyaki is a type of octopus dumpling

I KNOW THIS DUDE... I MEAN... I HAVE AN ACQUAINTANCE WHO'S IN THE INDUSTRY...
I COULD GET HIM TO LEND YOU THE TOOLS AND STUFF...
blush
ギクシャク
SEE YA.

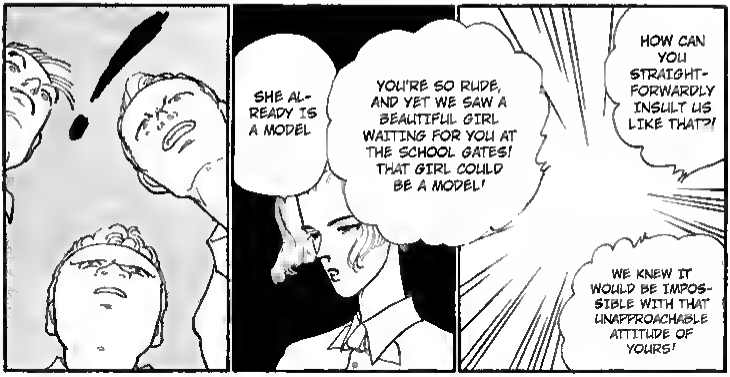
THANK...
YOU VERY MUCH...
THAT GIRL...
REALLY...
PISSED.
ME OFF!
I EMBARRASSED HIM BY SCOLDING HIM.
I WASN'T "SCOLDING" HIM, I WAS JUST GIVING HIM ADVICE!
GOOD ADVICE!
SHE SAID THAT...
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS ONLY ASKING HIM TO READ HER LETTER IN PARTICULAR!
Hey Chiyako are you even listening to me?

ケホ
ケホ
ケホ
ケホ
THAT'S RUI-KUN
HEE HEE HEE NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE I'M NEARBY!
THOSE PEOPLE!!
AHHH!

WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT ANNOYING GUY.
"ALL THE GIRLS JUMPING AROUND LIKE "KYA! KYA!"
DON'T TELL ME THEY WERE PLOTTING TO ATTACK RUI-KUN!?
CHIYAKO! CHIYAKO!
SHE'S IN ANOTHER MEETING ABOUT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL TODAY.
RUI-KUN!!

AH.
OUCH! SORRY, ARE YOU OKAY?
WAH!
ルイくん!
剣道部
Kendo Club...
CAPTAIN!
キャプテン
COME WITH ME! PLEASE HELP ME SAVE RUI-KUN!
?
!

RUI-
KUUN!!
CAN YOU STOP FOLLOWING ME AROUND LIKE THAT? YOUR FACES ARE REALLY UNPLEASANT TO LOOK AT


SHE ALREADY IS A MODEL
YOU'RE SO RUDE, AND YET WE SAW A BEAUTIFUL GIRL WAITING FOR YOU AT THE SCHOOL GATES! THAT GIRL COULD BE A MODEL!
HOW CAN YOU STRAIGHTFORWARDLY INSULT US LIKE THAT?!
WE KNEW IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH THAT UNAPPROACHABLE ATTITUDE OF YOURS!

HOW CAN SOMEONE AS NASTY AS HIM GET TO GO OUT WITH MODELS?!
IT'S NOT FAIR!!!

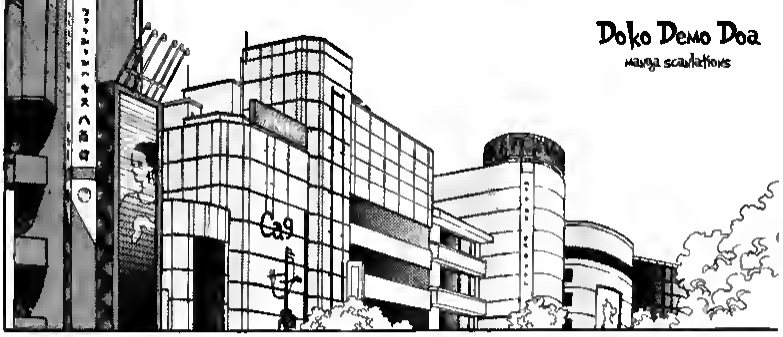
KYAA!
HEY, YOU! ATTACKING FROM BEHIND IS COWARDLY!
SO YOU GUYS WANT TO GO OUT WITH MODELS, TOO?
.....
OW.
RUI-KUN, ARE YOU OKAY?!
But you guys were plotting to attack Rui!
LET GO
UGH, IT'S FUNAHASHI FROM THE KENDO CLUB
IN THAT CASE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO MY SHOW THIS WEEK?
THERE'S A PARTY AFTER THE SHOW. IT'LL BE SWARMING WITH FEMALE MODELS

ゾ"D
ゾ"D..
WHAT?
SO YOU..
ARE A GOOD GUY AFTER ALL!!
MODELS
.....
.....
PLEASE TELL US MORE...
ABOUT THE SHOW AND THIS PARTY!!
YOU'RE SAYING WE CAN COME WITH YOU?
EVEN THOUGH WE GOT ANGRY BEFORE? THANKS!

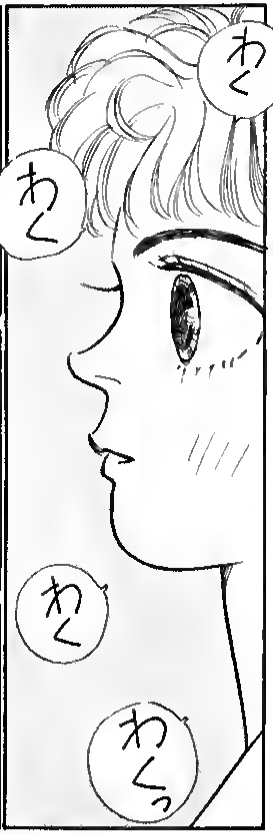
THAT... WAS YAMABE RUI-KUN, CHIYAKO'S YOUNGER BROTHER.
IS HE YOUR BOYFRIEND?
I KNOW
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY WERE ATTACKING HIM.
THIS IS AWKWARD
あはは
MORE LIKE MY UNREQUITED LOVE.
SO
DO YOU STILL LIKE CHIYAKO?

I THINK
WE HAVEN'T REALLY TALKED ABOUT IT
BUT I THINK SHE DISLIKES ME
THAT'S NOT TRUE
ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'M NOT SURE IF SHE'S READY TO GO OUT WITH SOMEBODY JUST YET
SO
IT'S NOT ENTIRELY IMPOS-SIBLE
IF YOU GIVE IT A BIT OF TIME, THEN . . .

I'M KOMURO NATSUME, CHIYAKO'S FRIEND
CAPTAIN! YEAH, I ALREADY KNOW. I HEARD FROM SOME GUYS AT THE DOJO
I'M FUJINAHASHI KYOUTA, THE KENDO CLUB'S
You're right ha ha
It's a bit too late for introductions though.


Cafe

AHH, THIS IS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE! MY FIRST EVER FASHION SHOW!
FURTHER-MORE, RUI-KUN IS IN IT! I CAN'T WAIT!!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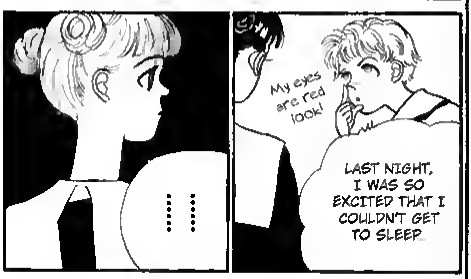
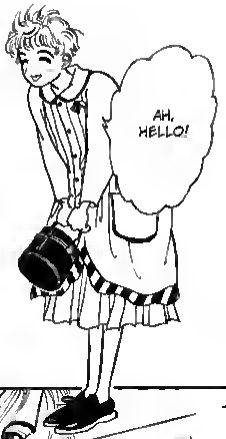
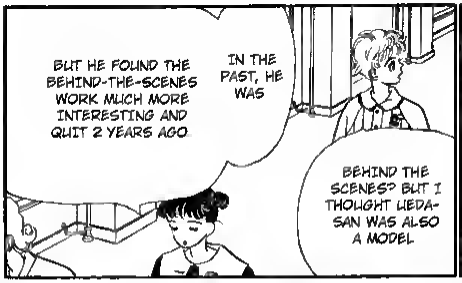

My eyes are red look!
LAST NIGHT, I WAS SO EXCITED THAT I COULDN'T GET TO SLEEP
……

YEAH?
UM..., NATSUME?

?
N. . NEVER MIND
IT DOESN'T MATTER
YO!

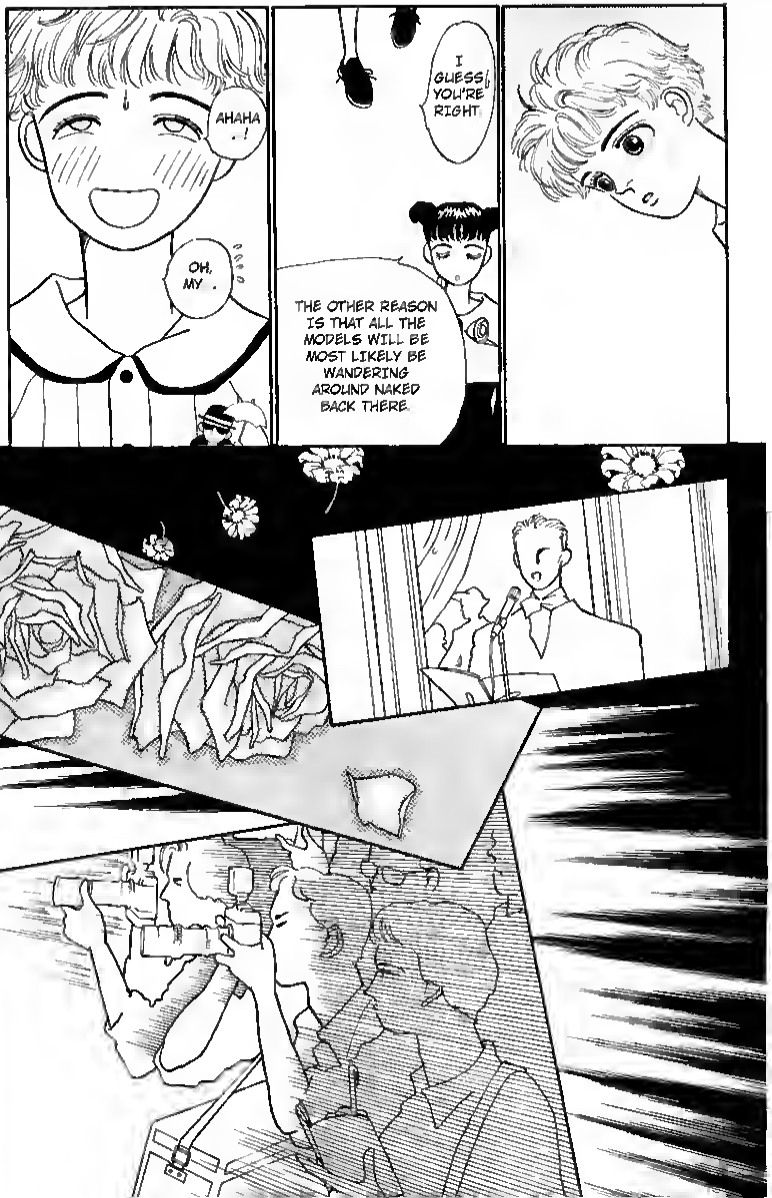
HEY, UEDA-SAN IS IT OKAY TO GO DRESSED LIKE THAT?
YOU LOOK A LITTLE SCRUFFY
HAHAHA! IT SURE IS. I'M WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES AFTER ALL!


AH, HELLO!


IN THE PAST, HE WAS
BUT HE FOUND THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES WORK MUCH MORE INTERESTING AND QUIT 2 YEARS AGO
BEHIND THE SCENES? BUT I THOUGHT UEDA-SAN WAS ALSO A MODEL

Oh! Uedaaaa!
WELL THEN, SEE YOU LATER

YOU'RE RIGHT
THAT'S A WASTE HE HAS SUCH GOOD STYLE
AW...
NO WAY
BACKSTAGE IS LIKE A WAR SCENE, SO IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I'VE TRIED BEFORE, BUT THEY ALWAYS SAY WE'D JUST GET IN THE WAY AND BECOME A NUISANCE
I HAVE AN IDEA
CAN WE GET RUI-KUN TO SNEAK US IN SO WE CAN EXPLORE BACKSTAGE?

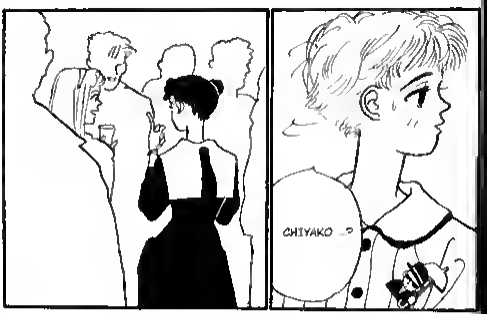

AHAHA..!
OH, MY..
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
THE OTHER REASON IS THAT ALL THE MODELS WILL BE MOST LIKELY BE WANDERING AROUND NAKED BACK THERE.

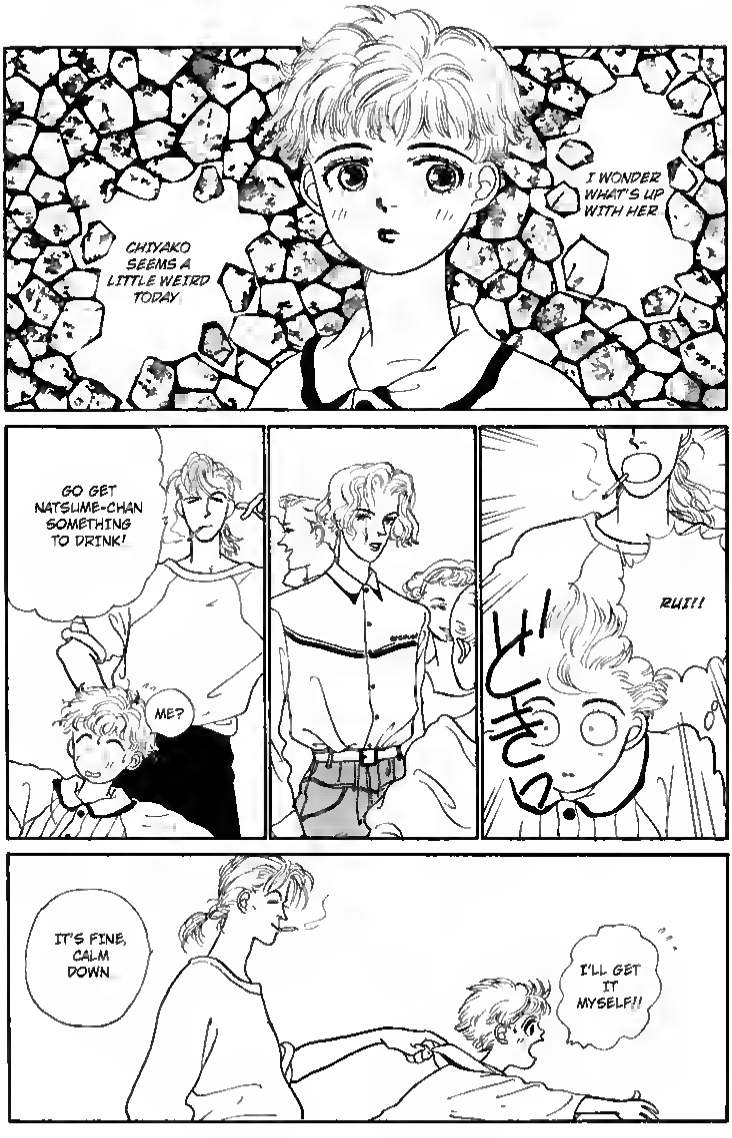
I.
HONESTLY...
CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF...
THE SHAPE OF ONE MODEL IN PARTICULAR...

IN MY MIND,
AND MY HEART
THE WHOLE OF MY WORLD WAS FILLED WITH RUI-KUN
AND...
AND THEN...
THEN...
THAT WORLD BECAME ALL I WAS AWARE OF

AND I REALISED THAT...

I AM JUST AN ORDINARY, PLAIN, MEDIOCRE,




CHIYAKO SEEMS A LITTLE WEIRD TODAY
I WONDER WHAT'S UP WITH HER
GO GET NATSUME-CHAN SOMETHING TO DRINK!
ME?
RUI!!
どきっ
IT'S FINE, CALM DOWN
I'LL GET IT MYSELF!!

IS SOME-THING TROUBLING YOU?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
Graduation
...
ひまつぶし
N... NOT REALLY
SOMETHING YOU CAN'T TELL ME?
WELL...
IT'S JUST...
Graduation

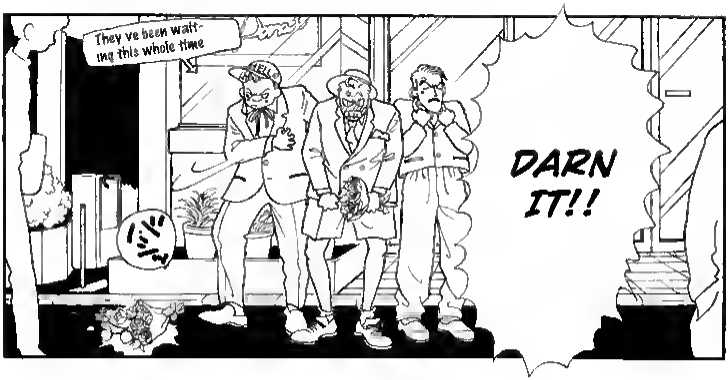
WHAT'S WITH YOU?! YOU'RE ALWAYS ANNOYINGLY CHATTY,
BUT NOW YOU WON'T TELL ME?!
OH, YEAH! WHERE ARE THOSE THIRD-YEAR BOYS?
I CAN'T SEE THEM.
AHH!!
I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MEETING THEM SOMEWHERE...
GUESS I FORGOT AGAIN.
.....

RUIII!
THIS ISN'T PLAYTIME, YOU KNOW!
THERE ARE STILL A BUNCH OF PEOPLE HERE WHO HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO YOU IN A WHILE!
AMAZING, LIKE A DREAM
THE SHOW WAS INDEED

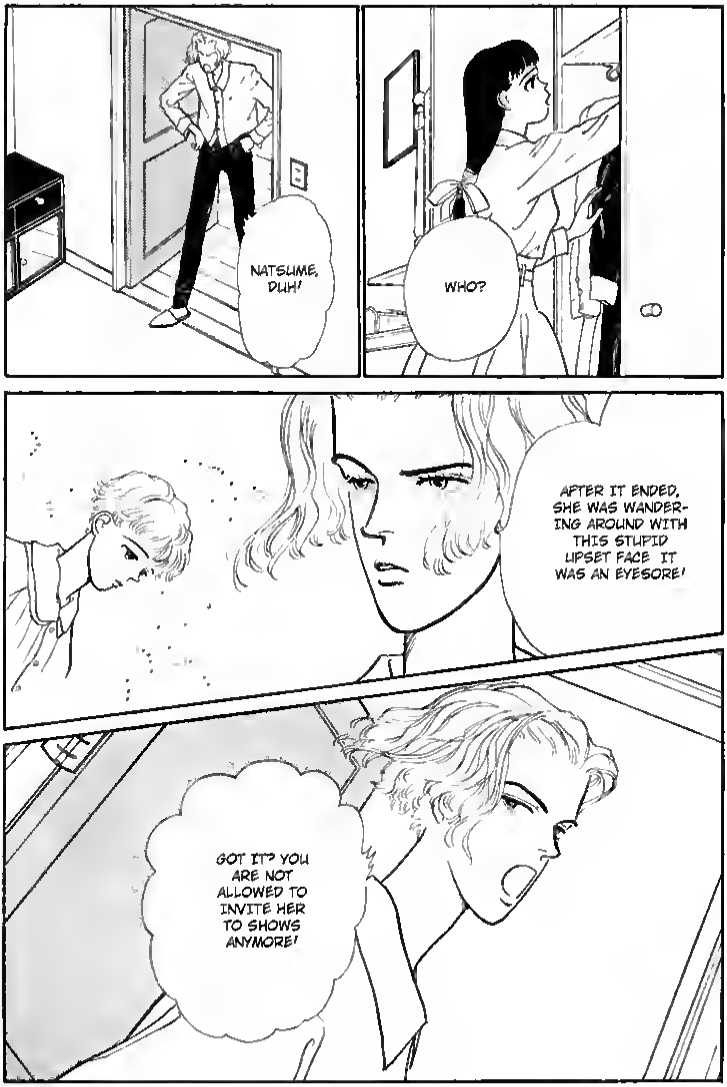
I COULDN'T EVEN SPEAK TO HIM PROPERLY.

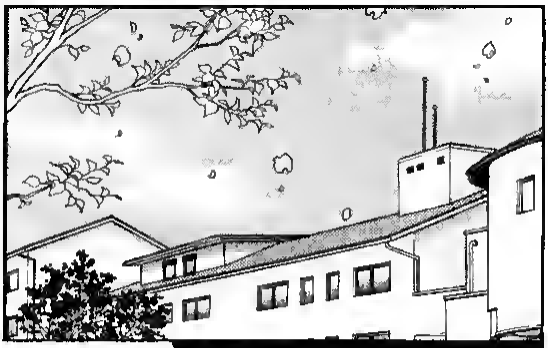
BUT AT THE SAME TIME,

AS IF I MET RUI-KUN IN A DREAM, HE SEEMS TO BE SLIDING FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY.



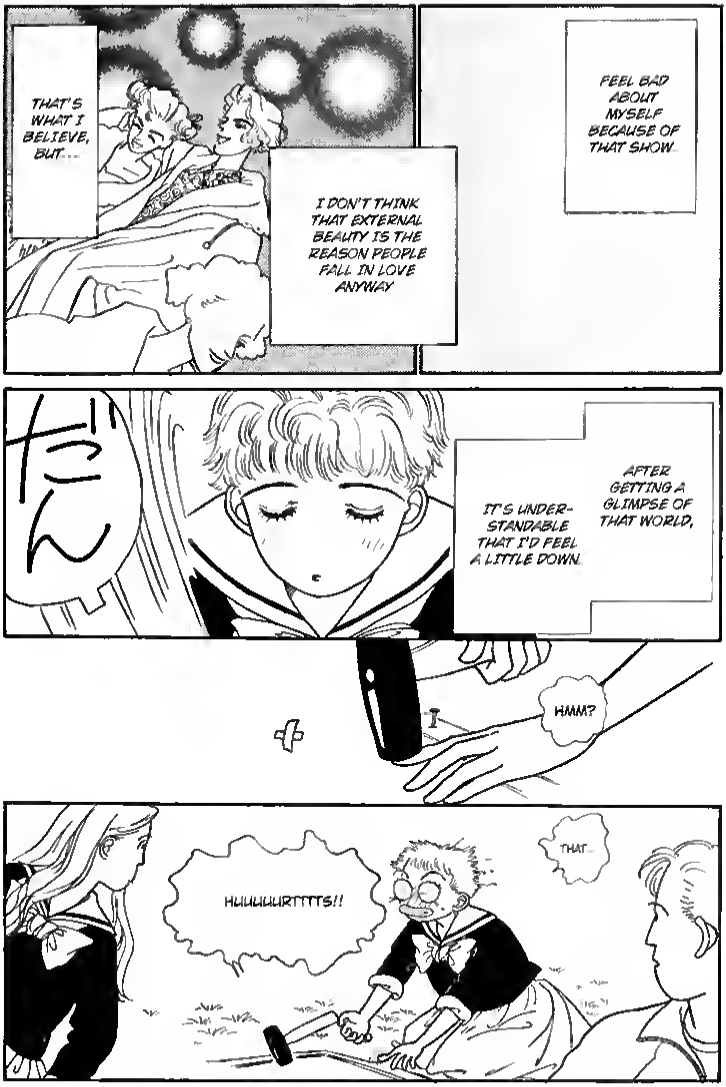
I'M NEVER GOING TO LET THAT PERSON COME ANOTHER DAMN SHOW AGAIN!
NEVER EVER!

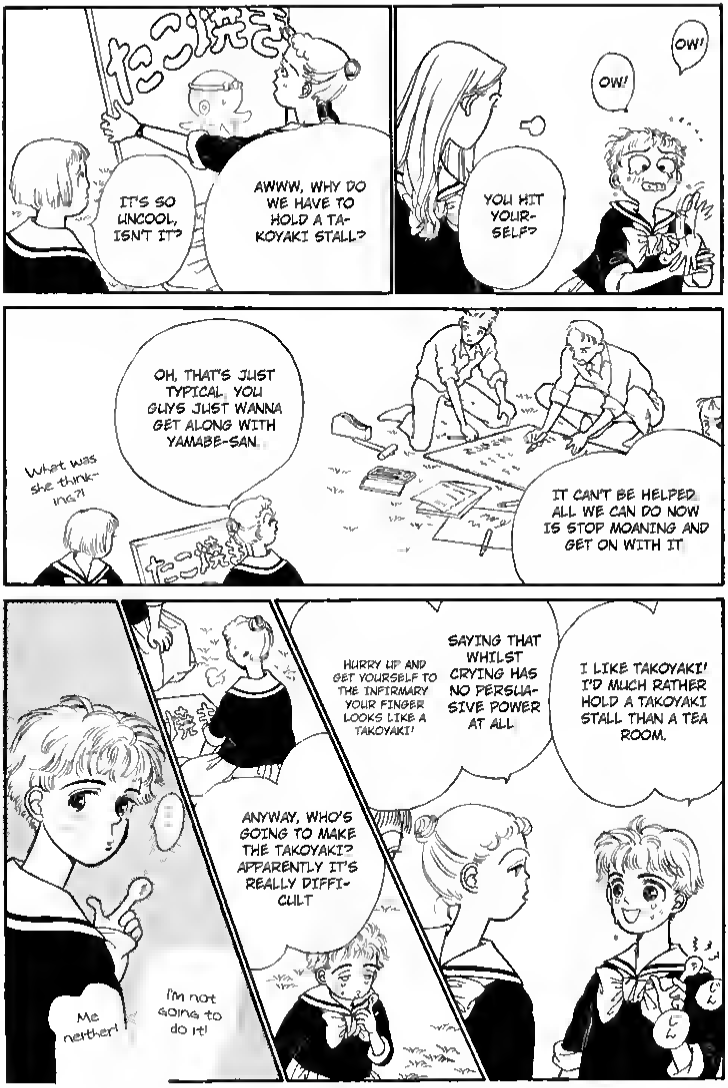

NATSUME, DUH!
WHO?
AFTER IT ENDED, SHE WAS WANDERING AROUND WITH THIS STUPID UPSET FACE IT WAS AN EYESORE!
GOT IT? YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO INVITE HER TO SHOWS ANYMORE!

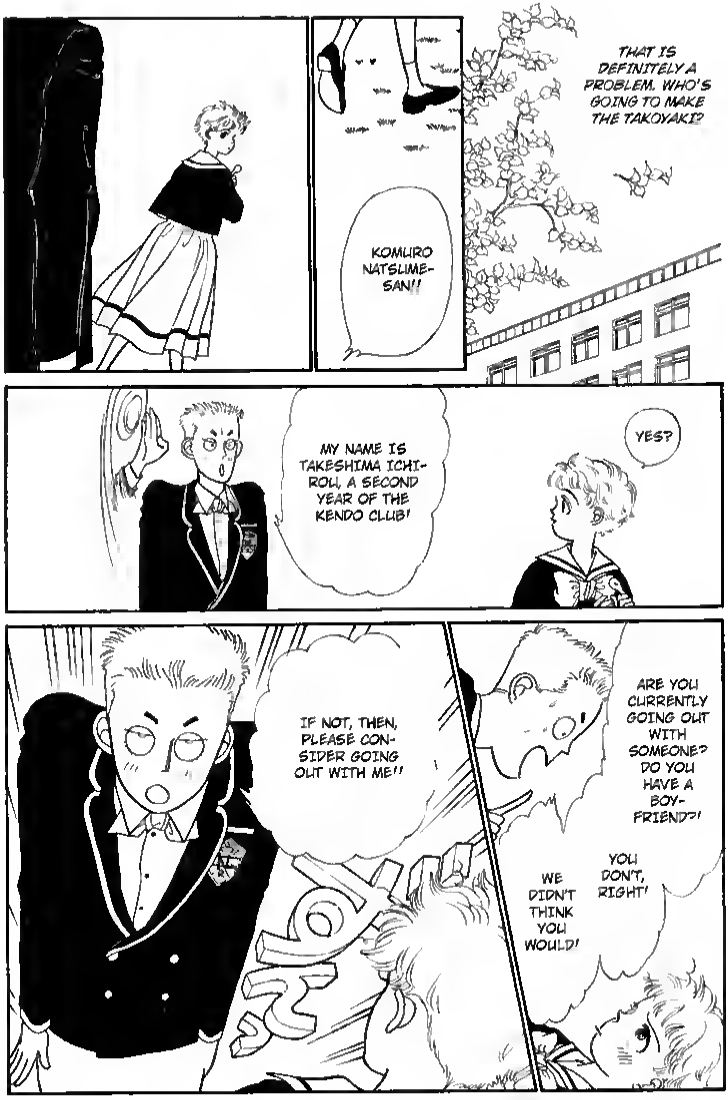


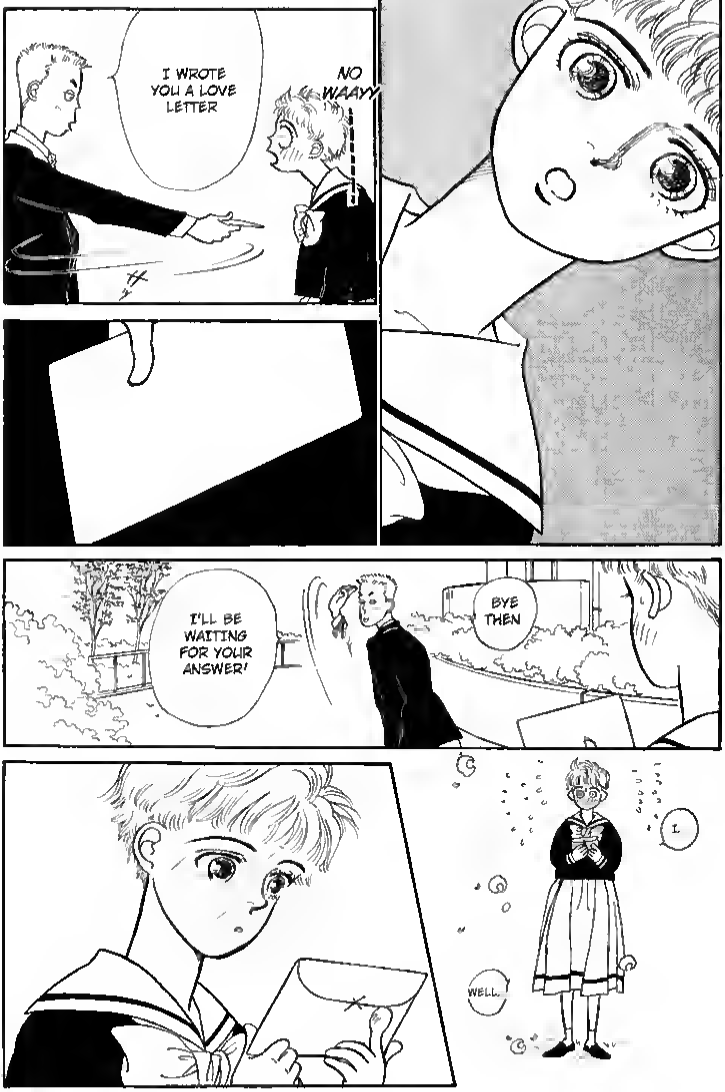
TAKESHIMA, WE SWORE AN OATH BETWEEN MEN DON'T FORGET THAT
UGH
YOU LOSE!

IF IT'S YOU, IT'LL BE FINE!
THE CAPTAIN'S HOPES ARE RIDING ON THIS DO YOUR BEST!
I need more paint!
Not white Paint!
TA-DAAA!
.....
トン
トン
トン
I KNOW THAT...
I SHOULDN'T

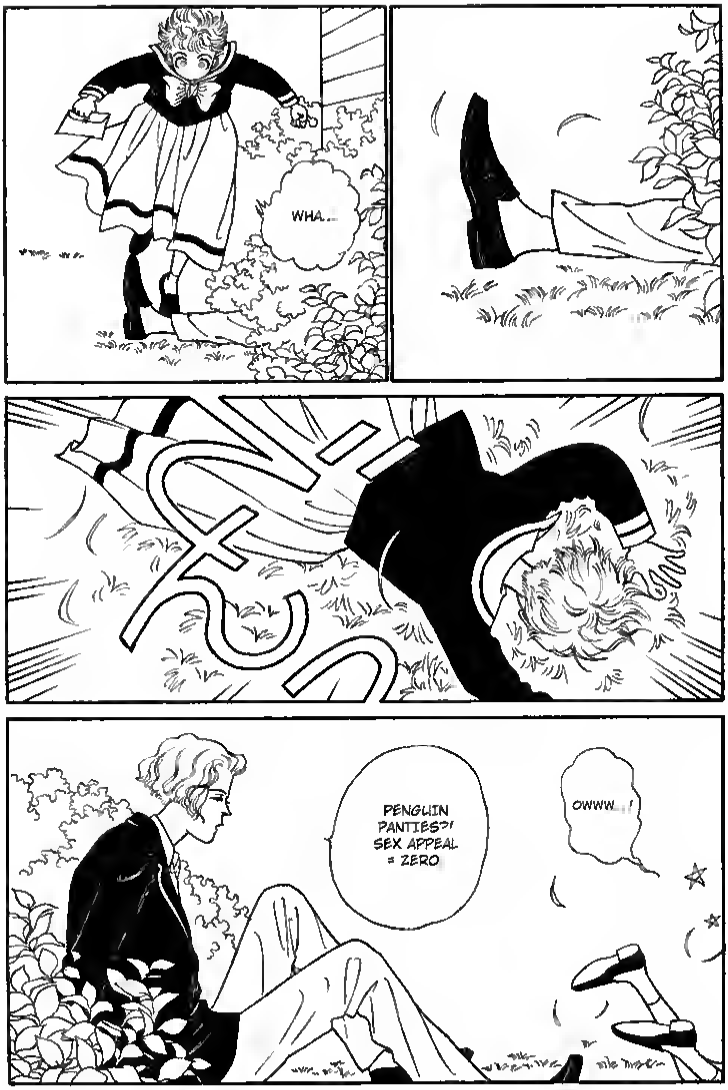

THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVE, BUT...
I DON'T THINK THAT EXTERNAL BEAUTY IS THE REASON PEOPLE FALL IN LOVE ANYWAY
FEEL BAD ABOUT MYSELF BECAUSE OF THAT SHOW.
だん
IT'S UNDER-STANDABLE THAT I'D FEEL A LITTLE DOWN.
AFTER GETTING A GLIMPSE OF THAT WORLD,
HMM?
HUUUUURTTTTS!!
THAT...

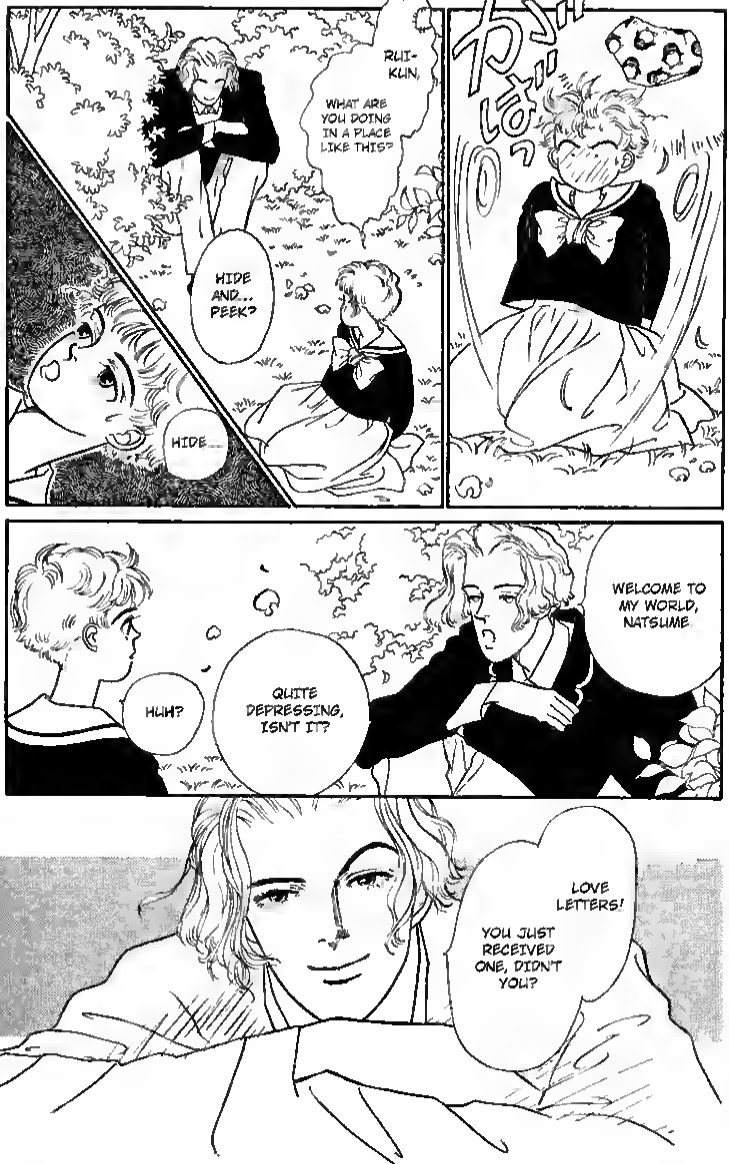

IT'S SO UNCOOL, ISN'T IT?
AWWW, WHY DO WE HAVE TO HOLD A TAKOYAKI STALL?
YOU HIT YOURSELF?
OW!
OW!
OH, THAT'S JUST TYPICAL. YOU GUYS JUST WANNA GET ALONG WITH YAMABE-SAN.
What was she thinking?!
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS STOP MOANING AND GET ON WITH IT
I LIKE TAKOYAKI! I'D MUCH RATHER HOLD A TAKOYAKI STALL THAN A TEA ROOM.
SAYING THAT WHILST CRYING HAS NO PERSUASIVE POWER AT ALL
HURRY UP AND GET YOURSELF TO THE INFIRMARY YOUR FINGER LOOKS LIKE A TAKOYAKI!
ANYWAY, WHO'S GOING TO MAKE THE TAKOYAKI? APPARENTLY IT'S REALLY DIFFICULT
I'm not going to do it!
Me neither!


KOMURO NATSUME-SAN!!
THAT IS DEFINITELY A PROBLEM. WHO'S GOING TO MAKE THE TAKOYAKI?
YES?
MY NAME IS TAKESHIMA ICHI-ROU, A SECOND YEAR OF THE KENDO CLUB!
ARE YOU CURRENTLY GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE? DO YOU HAVE A BOY-FRIEND?!
YOU DON'T, RIGHT!
WE DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD!
IF NOT, THEN, PLEASE CON-SIDER GOING OUT WITH ME!!

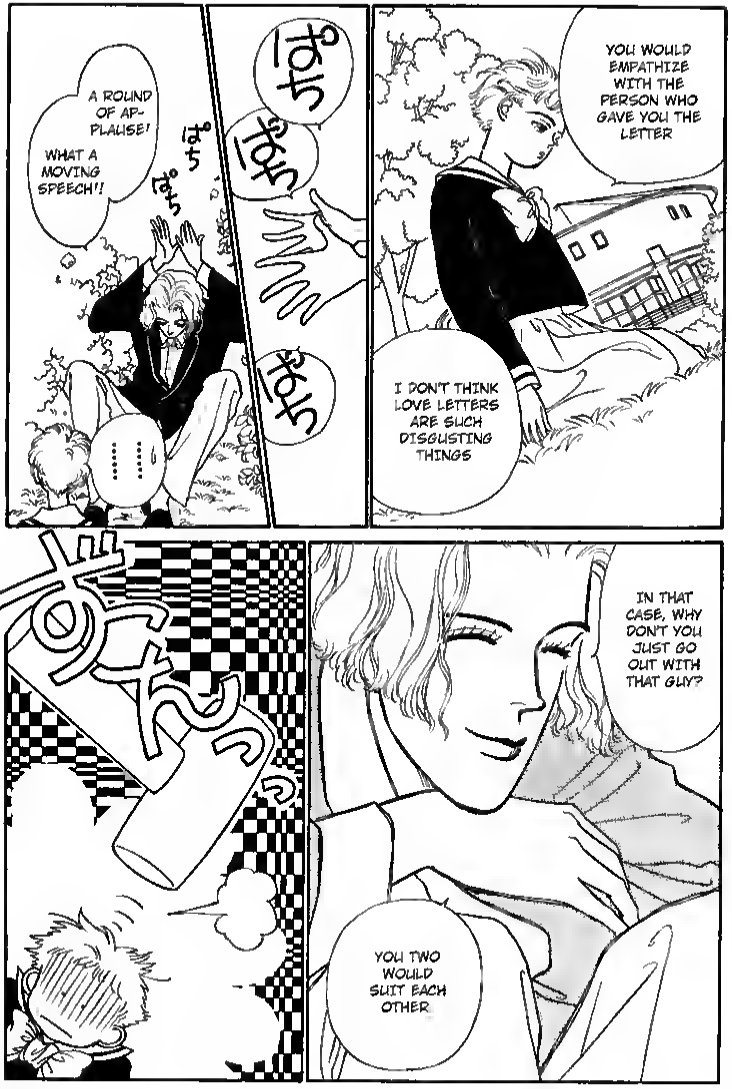

I WROTE YOU A LOVE LETTER
NO WAAY!
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR ANSWER!
BYE THEN
WELL...

A LOVE...
LETTER?!
!!!!
LOVE LETTER!
THIS IS...
MY FIRST EVER...
I'M IN LOVE WITH SOME-ONE ELSE.
I DON'T LIKE HIM BACK AT ALL.
WHY AM I SO HAPPY ABOUT THIS?
IT'S AUTUMN NOW.
NEVER-THE-LESS...
YAY!
THIS IS A FIRST FOR ME.


WHA...
FUN
PENGUIN PANTIES?! SEX APPEAL = ZERO
OWWW...!

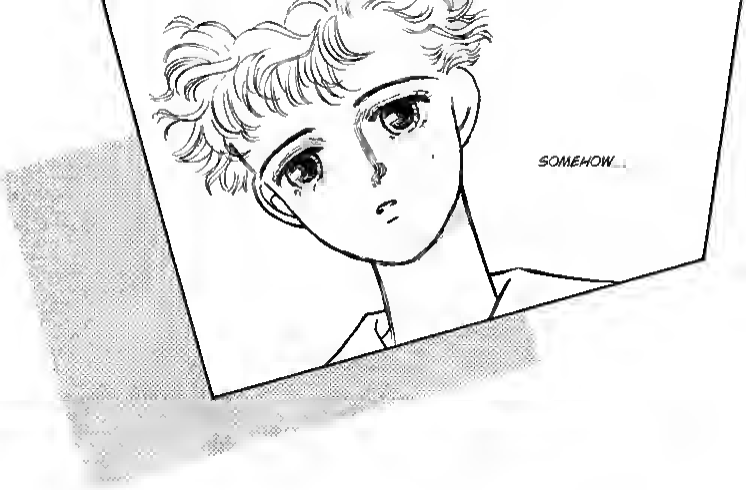

RUI-KUN,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
HIDE AND... PEEK?
HIDE...
カンッ
ばっ
WELCOME TO MY WORLD, NATSUME
HUH?
QUITE DEPRESSING, ISN'T IT?
LOVE LETTERS!
YOU JUST RECEIVED ONE, DIDN'T YOU?

SO YOU SAW?
THINKING IT'S THE EASIEST WAY TO EXPRESS ALL THOSE CREEPY FEELINGS OF THEIRS.
WRITING EVERY-THING DOWN CLEARLY...
FORCING ALL THAT CLINGY, MUSHY EMO-TION...
ONTO THE OTHER PERSON
YOU REALLY DO...
SAY HORRIBLE THINGS SOMETIMES.
IF YOU HAD EVER BEEN IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE, I'M SURE YOU WOULDN'T SAY THAT.


YOU WOULD EMPATHIZE WITH THE PERSON WHO GAVE YOU THE LETTER
I DON'T THINK LOVE LETTERS ARE SUCH DISGUSTING THINGS
ぱち
ぱちぱちぱちぱち
A ROUND OF AP-PLAUSE!
WHAT A MOVING SPEECH!!
ぱち
ぱち
……
IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO OUT WITH THAT GUY?
YOU TWO WOULD SUIT EACH OTHER
ぎゅんっ

ピッピッ
AH, THEY'VE FOUND ME
THERE YOU ARE, YAMABE RUI!
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK WE WERE WAITING FOR?!
4 HOURS AND 37 MINUTES!
DAMN YOU! DID YOU THINK WE WERE STUPID?!
PREPARE YOURSELF, NOOB!
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!
NOW IT'S A GAME OF TAG
.....

IT'S MADE UP OF A PAGE OF FANCY WORDS
MY FIRST EVER LOVE LETTER...
NOTHING SPECIFIC..
IT'S ALMOST LIKE IT WAS WRITTEN FOR ANOTHER PERSON


SOMEHOW...

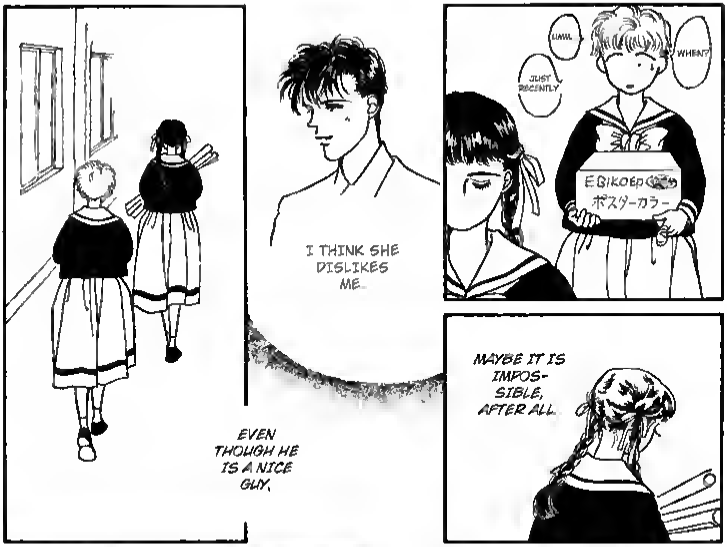
Sign Infirmary
保健室
ガラ
OH.
AH.

I'M GATHERING REPLACEMENTS FOR MY CLUB'S BOX.
SINCE IT'S A KENDO CLUB, WE GET A LOT OF BRUISES AND SCRATCHES.
HAVE YOU, FUNAHASHI-SAN?
INJURED YOURSELF?
JUST A LITTLE
It's only minor heh heh heh.
?
THE KENDO CLUB...
"WHAT KIND", HUH?
I'D SAY HE WAS THE 'A LITTLE SIMPLE BUT GOOD-NATURED' TYPE OF GUY.
THAT'S RIGHT
TAKESHIMA ICHIROU-KUN IS IN THE KENDO CLUB, ISN'T HE?
UMM..
WHAT KIND OF..
PERSON IS HE?

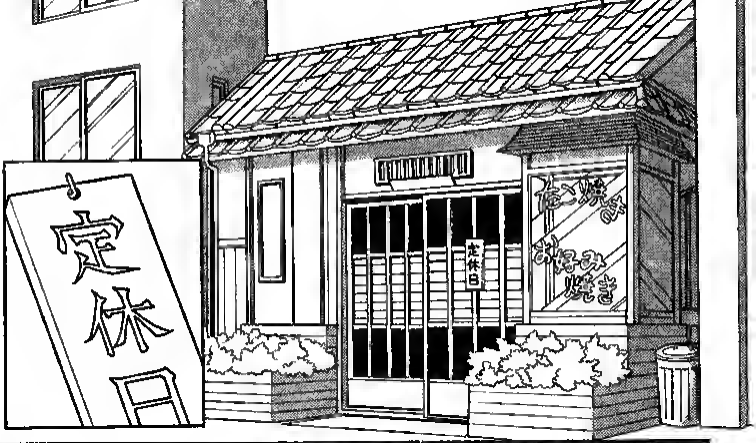
I BET HE HAS A LOT OF FRIENDS
HE'LL RECOVER FROM THE SHOCK MORE QUICKLY...
BECAUSE HE'LL BE ABLE TO CRY ON THEIR SHOULDERS.
WELL, I DUNNO...
WHAT HAPPENED TO TAKESHIMA?
TAKOYAKI!
what?
OH! I REMEMBER!!

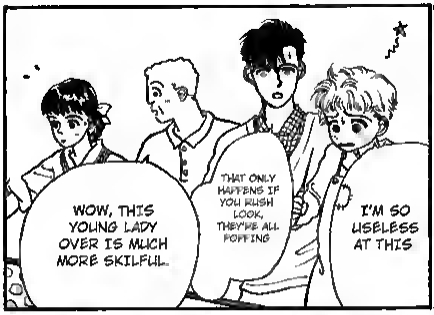
HEY, ARE YOU FREE THIS SUNDAY?
HOW COME?
CHI-YAKO!
HE'S GOING TO TEACH US HOW TO MAKE TAKOYAKI!!
TO VISIT FUNAHASHI-SAN'S RELATIVE. HE OWNS A TAKOYAKI PLACE!

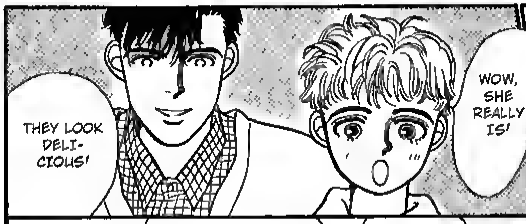
BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T PRACTICE, IT'S PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE
Kendo is such a manly sport!
YOU SEEM HAPPY, NATSUME.
SINCE WHEN DID YOU TWO BECOME FRIENDS?
WHEN I TOLD THE REST OF THE GIRLS IN THE CLASS, THEY MOANED AT ME AND SAID THAT US TWO SHOULD GO ALONE
BLUSH
BLUSH
YOU KNOW, FUNAHASHI-SAN REALLY IS A KIND, THOUGHTFUL PERSON
IT'S BEST IF PEOPLE LIKE THEM DON'T COME

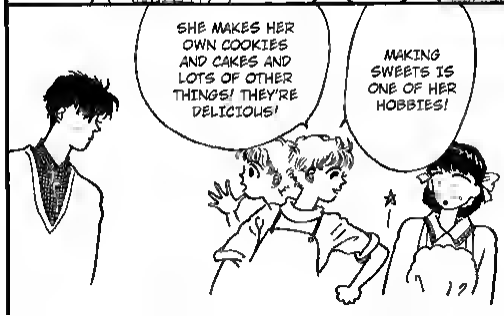

EVEN THOUGH HE IS A NICE GUY.
I THINK SHE DISLIKES ME.
UMM.
WHEN?
JUST RECENTLY
E.GIKOEDポスターカラー
MAYBE IT IS IMPOS-SIBLE, AFTER ALL.

I SHOULD PROBABLY STOP INTER-FERING
ビル
P
FRED'S









Doko Demo Doa

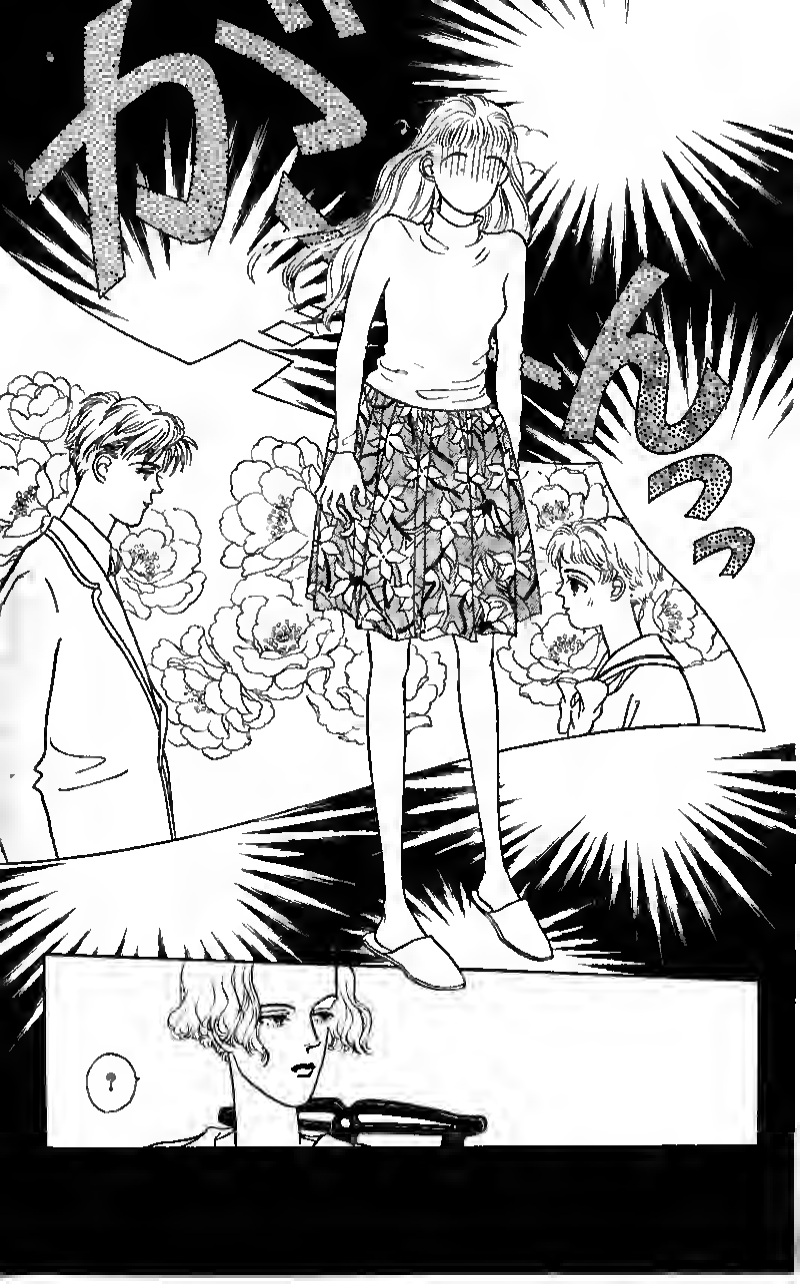
manga scanlations

IT'LL BE REALLY TOUGH IF SHE HAS TO DO ALL THE COOKING BY HERSELF
YOU NEED TO PRACTICE SERIOUSLY.
ぐぃっ
I'M TERRIBLE AT THAT SORT OF THING I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BE AS GOOD AS CHIYAKO
I'M COMPLIMENTED, SON.
JUST LIKE ME
YOU HAVE TO DO IT CALMLY AND STEADILY
OH.
Kyahaha-haha!!
He's just as Bad as me!

ばく
ばく
ごっくん
.....
YOU HAVE A GLUM FACE CHIYAKO
WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, JUST SAY IT ALREADY!!

I DON'T BLAME NATSUME AT ALL.
HE'S A TYPE OF GUY...
WHO'S A MILLION TIMES BETTER THAN SOMETHING LIKE RUI.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
I'M TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE RUI WHO HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO BE KIND
SELFISH, MOODY, COLD-BLOODED HUMANS.
NATSUME DESERVES A PERSON MUCH BETTER THAN SOMETHING LIKE RUI
STOP WITH THE "SOMETHING" ALREADY!
I'M A PERSON, YOU KNOW!

SO SHE TOOK MY ADVICE AND WENT OUT WITH THAT GUY FROM THE KENDO CLUB? THAT'S INTERESTING
がた
IT'S TOTALLY UNDERSTANDABLE THAT SHE'S FALLEN FOR SOME OTHER GUY!
IN FACT, I'M SURPRISED SHE DIDN'T MOVE ON SOONER!
がー
RUI,
YOU KNEW ABOUT HIM?
YEAH, I KNEW
I WAS WATCHING WHEN HE ASKED HER OUT THE OTHER DAY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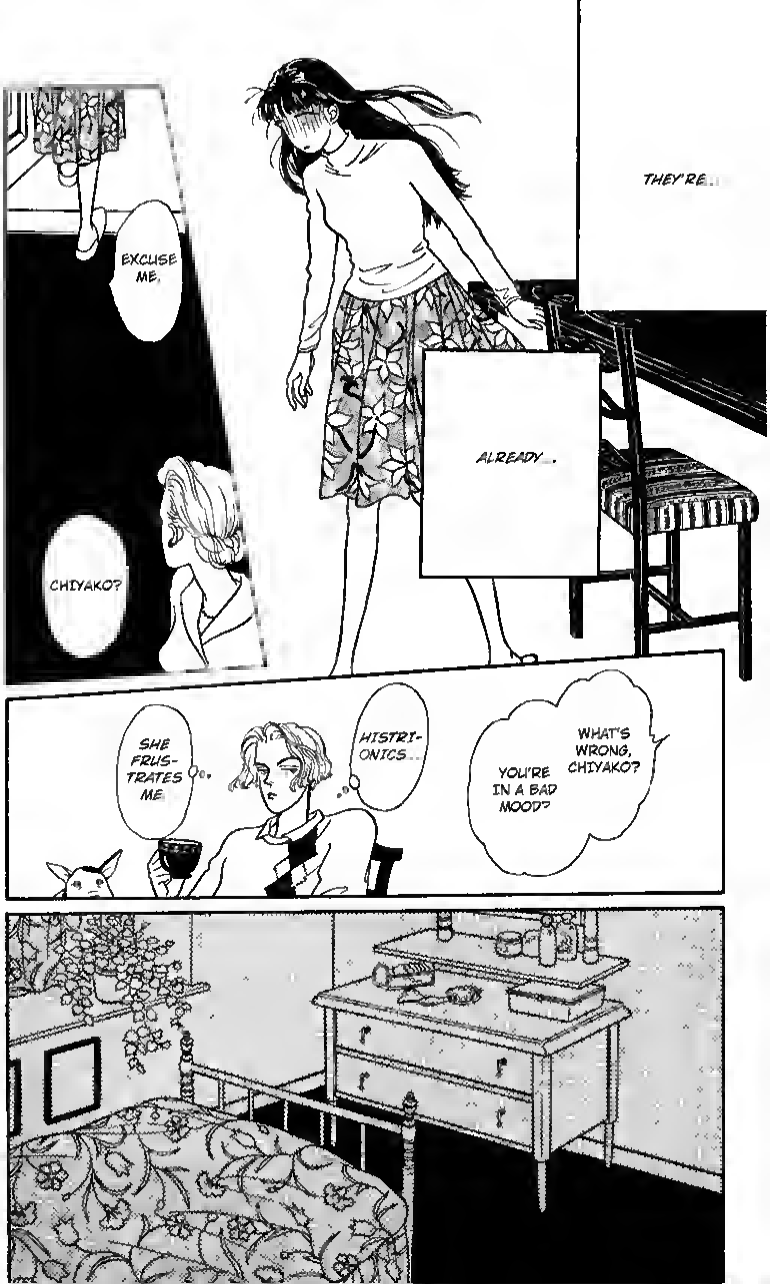
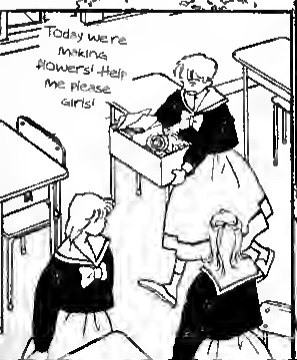
?


EXCUSE ME.
CHIYAKO?
THEY'RE...
ALREADY...
SHE FRUSTRATES ME.
HISTRIONICS...
YOU'RE IN A BAD MOOD?
WHAT'S WRONG, CHIYAKO?

I'M SO STUPID...


Today we're making flowers! Help me please girls!

ARE YOU FEELING ILL, CHIYAKO?
NO, I'M FINE.
そよろ
そよろ
COULD I ASK YOU ABOUT SOMETHING?
IT'S TO DO WITH THE KENDO CLUB.
ONE OF THEM CAME TO SPEAK TO ME THE OTHER DAY.
ACTUALLY, THIS IS A BIT EMBARRASSING.
NATSUME!

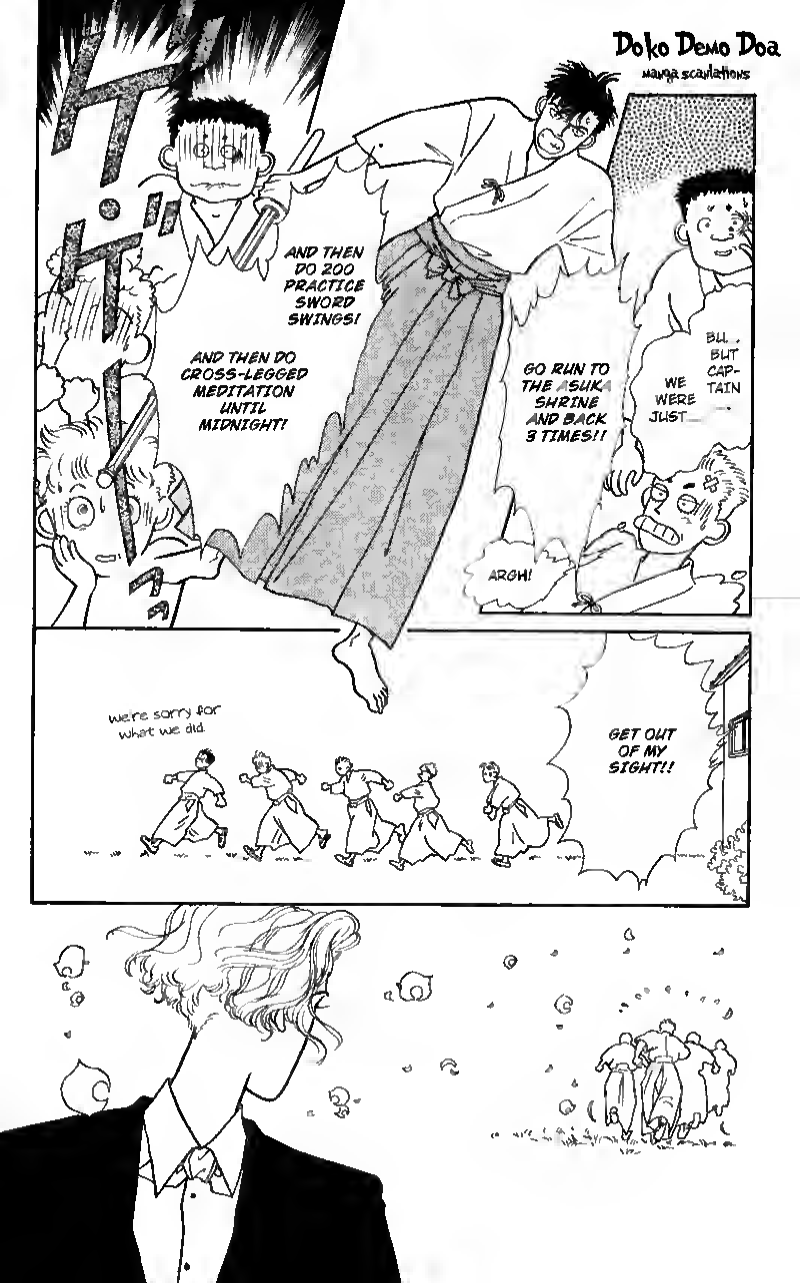
HE'S A REALLY NICE PERSON
MOST IMPORTANTLY,
THEN I WILL BE HAPPY TOO.
YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND, SO IF YOU HAVE HAPPINESS,
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME
YOU TWO WOULD...
Cuuu
The image inside Natsume's head...
MAKE A REALLY CUTE COUPLE!
The image inside Chiyako's head...
THAT'S STRANGE...
I HAD NO IDEA THAT CHIYAKO KNEW TAKESHIMA ICHIROU-KUN.

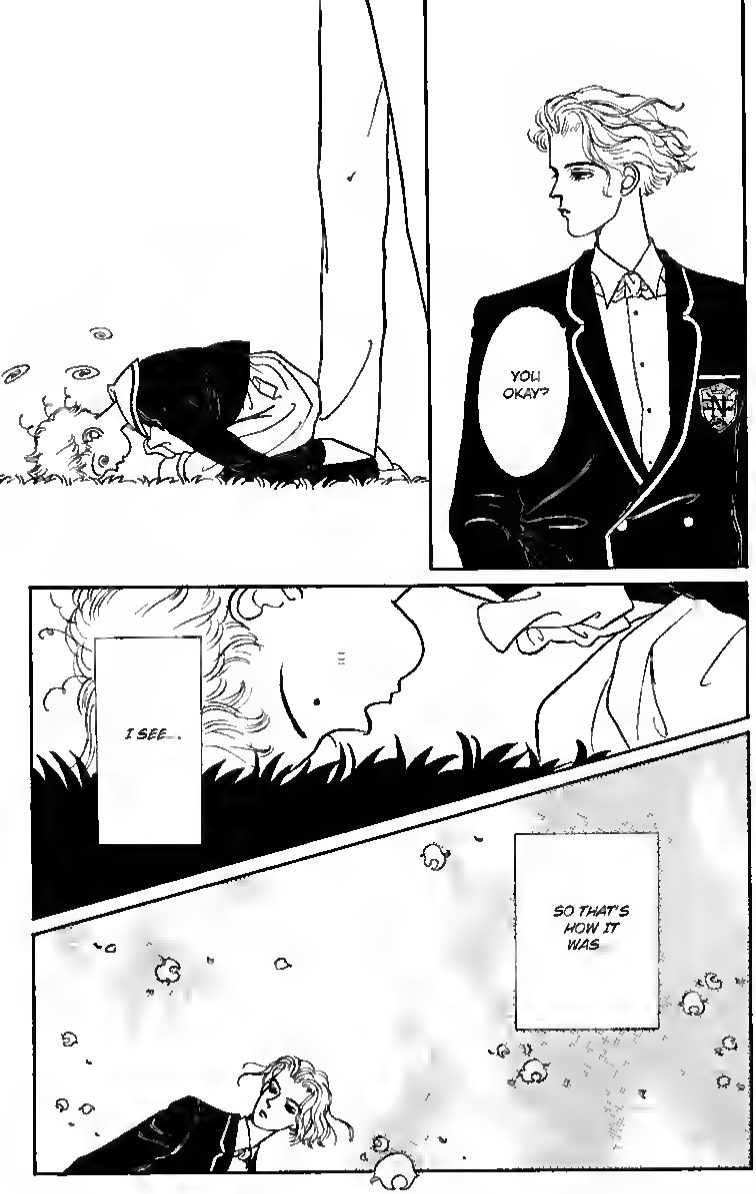
THEY BOTH THINK WE SUIT EACH OTHER
SHE MUST HAVE HEARD ABOUT HIM FROM RUI-KUN.
EVEN CHIYAKO...
SAID SO...
AND ON TOP OF THAT...
お友だちっ
I'VE GOT TO GO DO SOMETHING
ACTUALLY, I PROMISED THEM I'D BRING LOTS OF FEMALE MODELS TO THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
WHEN DID YOU GUYS MAKE UP? ARE YOU FAKING IT?

TYPICAL MEN
HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT CHIYAKO'S BEEN A BIT STRANGE LATELY?
YES, SHE'S NOT BEEN HER USUAL SELF. DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S UP WITH HER?
YES, IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S UPSET THAT YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH THAT KENDO CLUB GUY
I THINK SHE WANTS A BOY-FRIEND TOO
I DON'T HAVE A BOY-FRIEND!
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO REJECT THAT GUY!
REJECT HIM?
BUT WHY?
.....

HOW EXACTLY WERE YOU PLANNING TO DO IT?
DO YOU MIND IF I WATCH AND TAKE NOTES?
OF
OF COURSE YOU CAN'T!!
I'M SORRY...
"IT'S UNREQUITED BUT I'M IN LOVE WITH SOMEBODY ELSE."
NO WAY...
IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO SAY THAT IF THE "SOMEBODY ELSE" I WAS REFERRING TO WAS STANDING, TAKING NOTES IN THE BACKGROUND!

Sign: Kendo Club
WE'LL CREATE AN OPENING FOR YOU TO GET TO KNOW CHIYAKO THROUGH!
THE PLAN IS THAT TAKESHIMA IS GOING TO BE YOUR MAN-ON-THE-INSIDE AND PUT IN A GOOD WORD TO CHIYAKO FOR YOU.
what?
剣道部
SHE SEEMS QUITE CLOSE TO CHIYAKO.
WE THOUGHT THAT NATSUME GIRL WOULD BE THE BEST WAY PERSON TO CHOOSE
WHAT DID I DO WRONG?
WE.
WHAT DID...
WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS STUPID PLAN?!
YOU GUYS!!

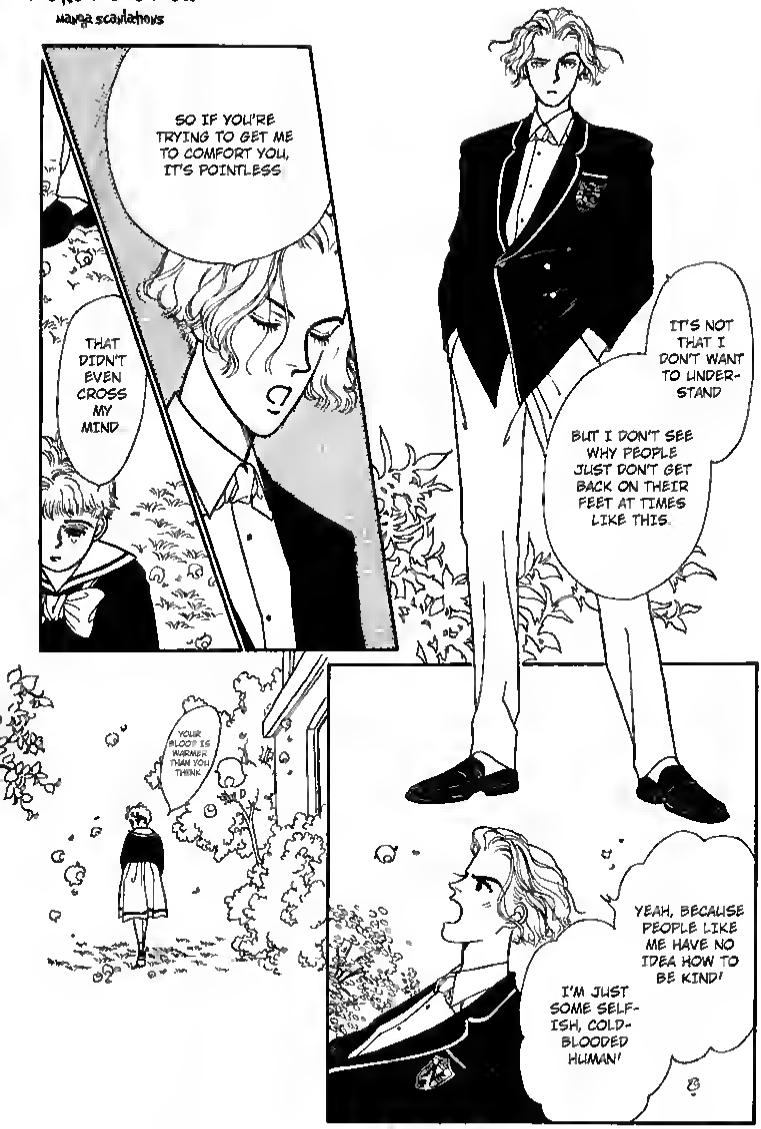

AND THEN DO 200 PRACTICE SWORD SWINGS!
AND THEN DO CROSS-LEGGED MEDITATION UNTIL MIDNIGHT!
GO RUN TO THE ASUKA SHRINE AND BACK 3 TIMES!!
BU..BUT CAP-TAIN...
WE WERE JUST...
ARGH!
We're sorry for what we did
GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!!


YOU OKAY?
I SEE...
SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS

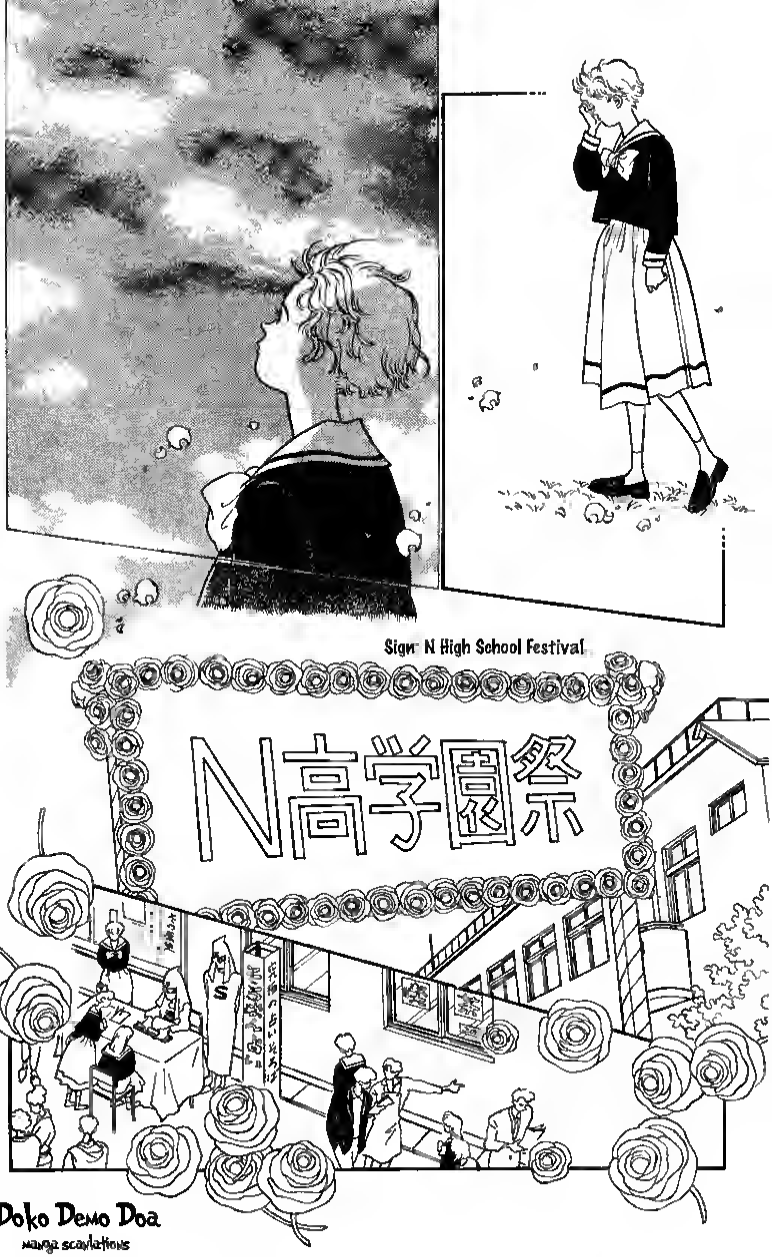
SO THAT WAS WHY
I DID THINK IT WAS A BIT STRANGE...
AH?!
THAT LETTER...
RUI-KUN!

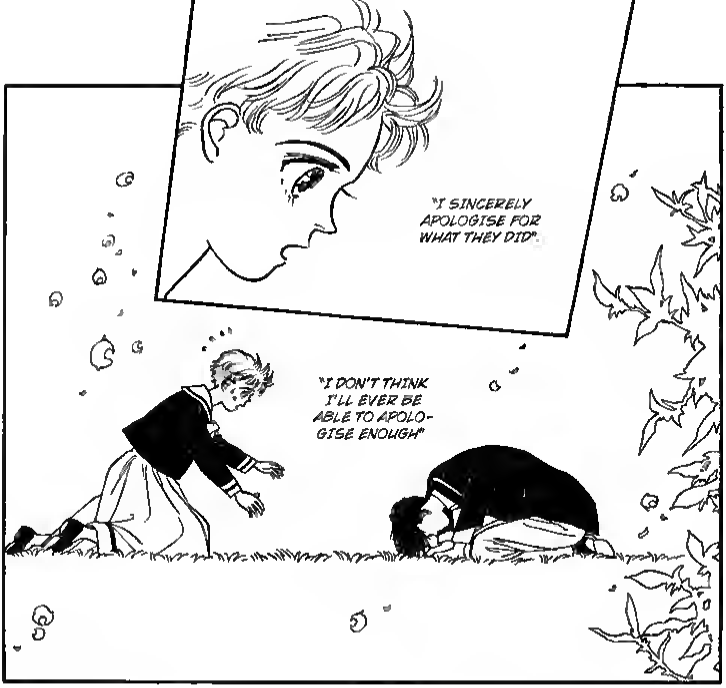
Sadistic Personality.
AND YOU GENUINELY BELIEVED IT WAS FOR REAL?!
FUHAHAHA-HAHA! LOOK AT THIS RIDICULOUS POEM!
YOUR CHEEKS HAVE THE TRANSPARENCY AND COLOUR OF CHERRY BLOSSOMS. YOUR LIPS ARE THE COLOUR OF ROSES. THAT INNOCENT SMILE IS MY__
WELL, AT LEAST YOU WERE PLANNING TO REJECT HIM

I REALLY WAS GRATE-FUL
BUT YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE HIM AN "I REALLY AM GRATEFUL, BUT..." HONEST REJECTION, WEREN'T YOU?
HAHA!
Nasty Person
AT THE TIME WHEN I RECEIVED IT, I WAS REALLY DOWN
I WAS UPSET
MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT FEELING, RUI-KUN
BUT THAT LETTER MADE ME FEEL BETTER AGAIN
I HAD LOST ALL MY SELF-CONFIDENCE
I WAS HAPPY THAT SOMEBODY FELT LIKE THAT ABOUT ME

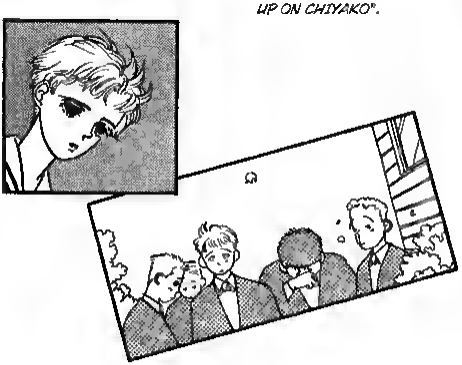

SO IF YOU'RE TRYING TO GET ME TO COMFORT YOU, IT'S POINTLESS
THAT DIDN'T EVEN CROSS MY MIND
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO UNDER-STAND
BUT I DON'T SEE WHY PEOPLE JUST DON'T GET BACK ON THEIR FEET AT TIMES LIKE THIS.
YOUR BLOOD IS WARMER THAN YOU THINK
YEAH, BECAUSE PEOPLE LIKE ME HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO BE KIND!
I'M JUST SOME SELF-ISH, COLD-BLOODED HUMAN!

And he's proud of it


Sign: N High School Festival
N高学園祭


"I SINCERELY APOLOGISE FOR WHAT THEY DID".
"I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO APOLOGISE ENOUGH"

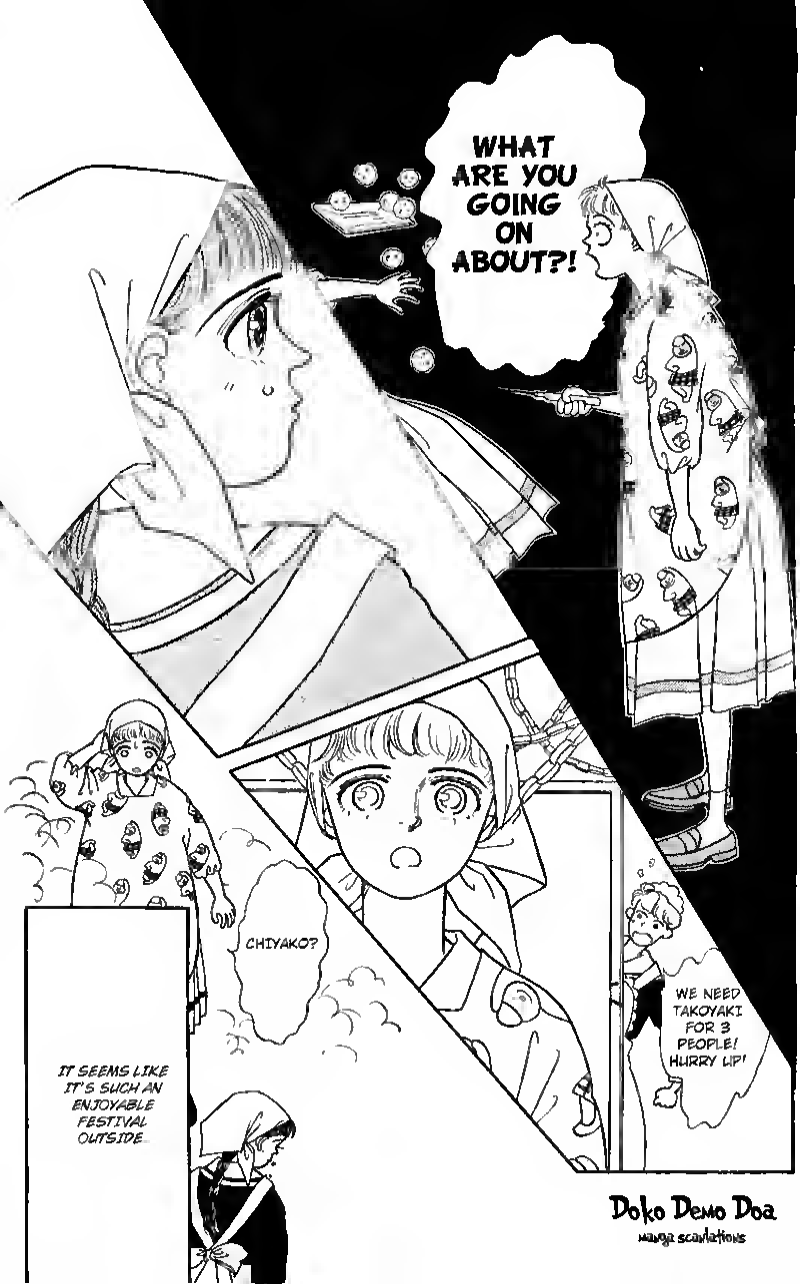
"BUT I'M GLAD IT'S BEEN BROUGHT TO AN END".

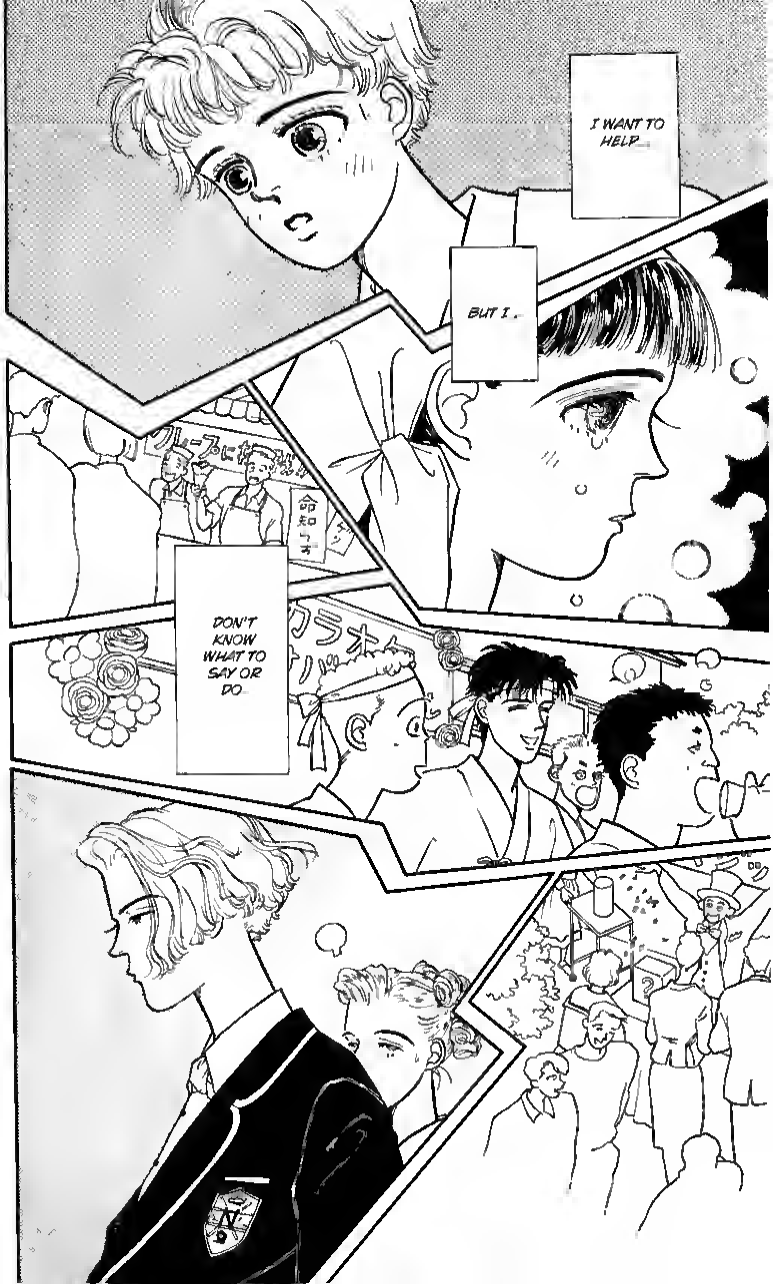

"AND I'LL SAY NOW THAT IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GIVE UP ON CHIYAKO".

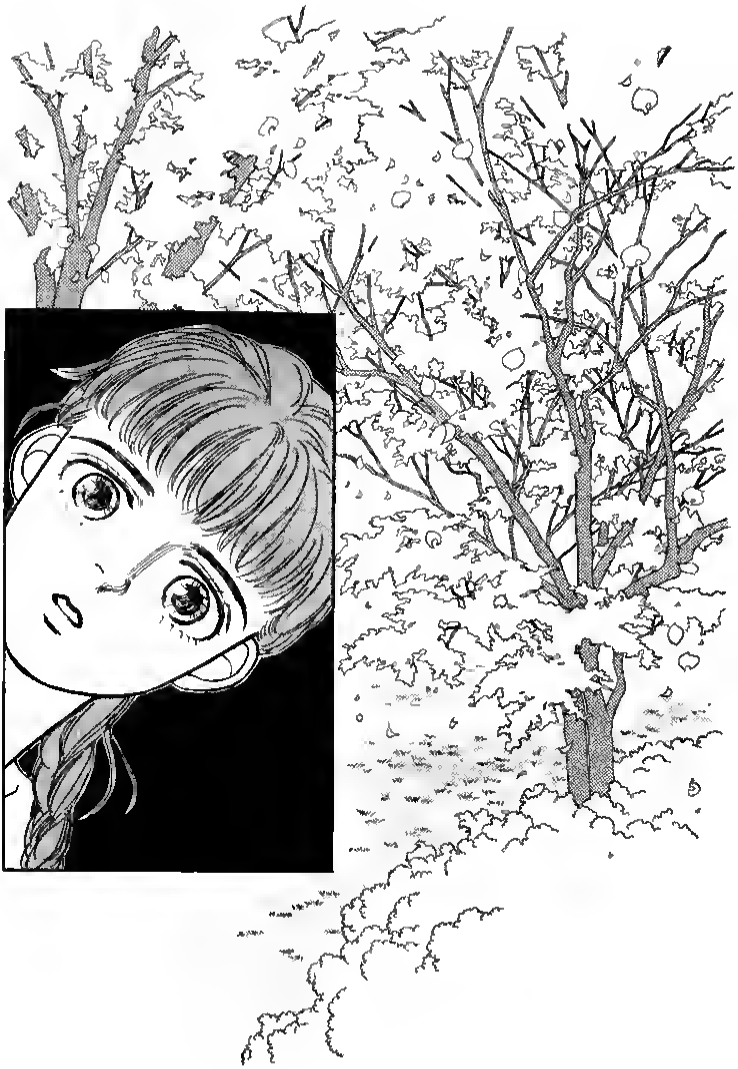
I'VE ALSO BEEN TRYING TO MATCH-MAKE, THOUGH
I REGRET MEDDLING LIKE THAT.
LOOK, IT'S THAT FOREIGNER.
THE ONE WE SAW RECENTLY.
IT'S LIKE I'M IN YOUR CLASS.
DON'T YOU THINK SO, RUI?

YOU CAN LOOK AROUND WHEREVER YOU WANT.
DON'T CLING ONTO ME LIKE THAT.
HE'S IN A BAD MOOD AGAIN.
DID YOU HAVE A QUARREL WITH FUNAHASHI-SAN?

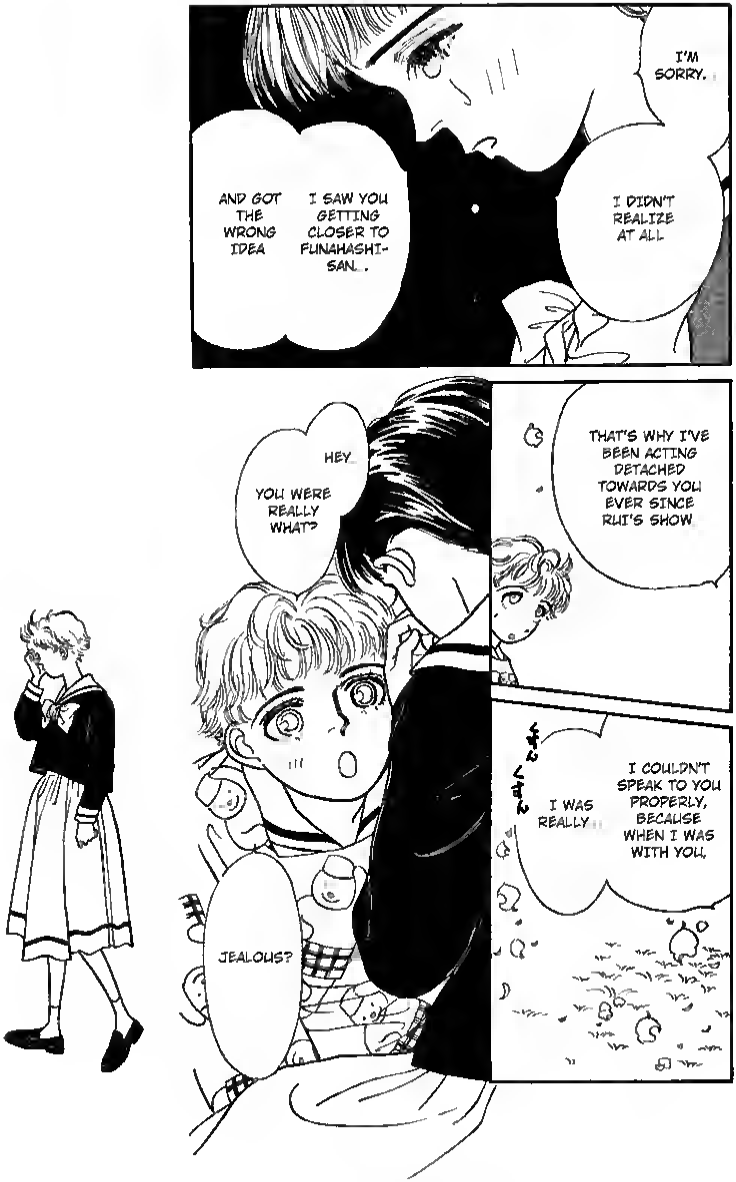
WELL,
THE AIR AROUND YOU SEEMS HEAVY FOR SOME REASON, SO I FIGURED IT MUST BE BECAUSE SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU.
I WOULDN'T CALL IT A "QUARREL"
HOW COME YOU SUDDENLY KEEP ASKING ABOUT FUNAHASHI-SAN?
WHAT?
BETWEEN THE TWO OF US?
THERE'S NO POINT HIDING IT ANYMORE
ME AND WHO?
FUNAHASHI-SAN DECIDED ON NATSUME ALREADY


WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?!
CHIYAKO?
WE NEED TAKOYAKI FOR 3 PEOPLE! HURRY UP!
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S SUCH AN ENJOYABLE FESTIVAL OUTSIDE.


I WANT TO HELP...
BUT I...
DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY OR DO...



I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM!
THAT'S A TERRIBLE THING TO DO!
CHIYAKO! JUST WAIT A SECOND!
CALM DOWN!
DOING A HORRIBLE THING LIKE THAT! IT MAKES ME SICK! ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?!
YES!
I'M OVER IT ALREADY
FUNAHASHI-SAN CAME TO APOLOGISE TO ME ON THEIR BEHALF
BUT...!
.....
CHI-YAKO


I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T REALIZE AT ALL
I SAW YOU GETTING CLOSER TO FUNAHASHI-SAN...
AND GOT THE WRONG IDEA
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN ACTING DETACHED TOWARDS YOU EVER SINCE RUI'S SHOW
I COULDN'T SPEAK TO YOU PROPERLY, BECAUSE WHEN I WAS WITH YOU,
I WAS REALLY...
もじもじ
HEY...
YOU WERE REALLY WHAT?
JEALOUS?

PER-HAPS...
IT WAS BE-CAUSE YOU'VE FALLEN FOR FUNAHASHI-KUN?
ぽ
ぽ
EVERYTHING'S BLURRY...
EEEEEHHHH?! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SO EAR-LIER!!
ガク ガク ガク
I... I...
...KNOW IT MYSELF— UNTIL JUST THEN
DIDN'T...

MY EARS
UHM.
OKAY
DON'T BE SHY, THIS IS MUTUAL LOVE! COME ON!!
N... NATSUME..!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TALK TO ME ABOUT IT?!
I WOULD HAVE MADE YOU REALIZE SOONER!!

ライオン・キバイバルズ
剣道部

HE SAID HE'D GIVE UP. BUT HE SOON TOOK THAT BACK
WHEN MR. KENDO CAPTAIN LISTENED TO HER, HE LOOKED LIKE A GOLDFISH, HIS MOUTH FLAPPING OPEN AND SHUT.

I'M OVER IT ALREADY
I REALLY AM SORRY I DIDN'T MEAN ..
AH
EXCUSE ME
PHEW! ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL. THANKS TO MY MEDDLING OF COURSE
SO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
THANKS TO MY EFFORTS, THOSE TWO HAVE GOT THEIR ACT TOGETHER
SORRY
I'M REALLY
TRUTH IS, I'M NOT COMPLETELY OVER IT YET
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT THIS!
IF THEY DON'T COME BACK SOON I'LL KILL THEM!!
THEY SAID THEY WERE JUST GOING FOR A SHORT BREAK!! OI, HURRY UP BACK THERE!

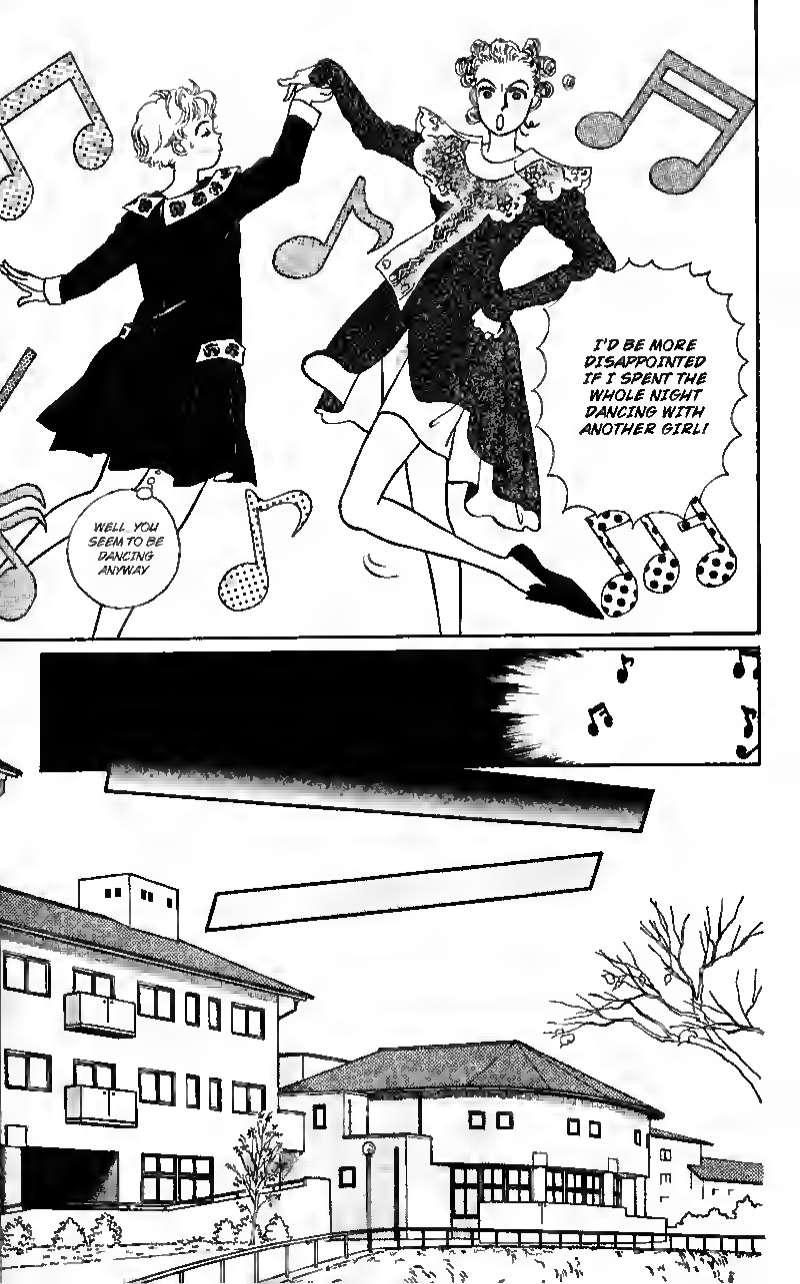
N高等打ち上げ
ダンスパーティー会場
キュオオン
MOVE TO THE RHYTHM UNTIL YOU DIEEE!

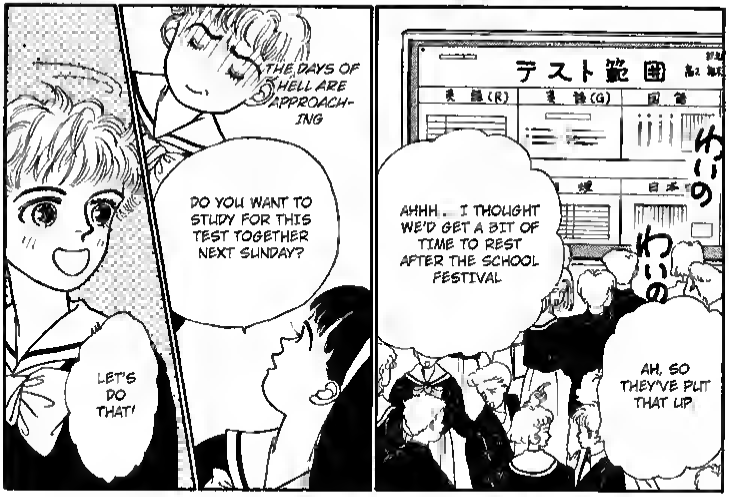
I'LL MAKE SURE I GET TO DANCE FOR THE LENGTH OF ONE SONG WITH RUI-KUN!

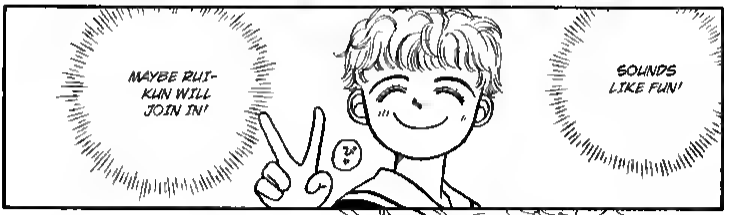
YIPPEE!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT TO COME!

RUI IS THE KIND OF PERSON WHO REALLY STANDS OUT IN A CROWD.
THAT'S ODD
DINA!
WHERE'S RUI-KUN?
AH!
No
Sorry
HE'S GONE HOME ALREADY.
!
HE'S AT .
HOME?
JEEZ, I EVEN WORE MY BEST OUTFIT FOR THIS STUPID DANCE PARTY. I'LL HAVE TO GO TO A DISCO OR SOMETHING INSTEAD...

YOU'RE SO COOL, SENPEI!
I'LL DANCE TO MY HEART'S CONTENT, DAMN IT! WOOP! WOOP!
CHECK OUT MY UNIQUE, KILLER DANCE MOVES!
ズ…
WHAT ABOUT HER?
Go for it, captain!
チカ
チカ
WOULDN'T YOU BE DISAPPOINTED IF YOU WENT HOME AFTER TAKING SUCH TROUBLE TO DRESS UP?
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT


I'D BE MORE DISAPPOINTED IF I SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT DANCING WITH ANOTHER GIRL!
WELL, YOU SEEM TO BE DANCING ANYWAY


THE DAYS OF HELL ARE APPROACHING
DO YOU WANT TO STUDY FOR THIS TEST TOGETHER NEXT SUNDAY?
LET'S DO THAT!
テスト範囲
AHHH.. I THOUGHT WE'D GET A BIT OF TIME TO REST AFTER THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL
AH, SO THEY'VE PUT THAT UP


MAYBE RUI-KUN WILL JOIN IN!
SOUNDS LIKE FUN!

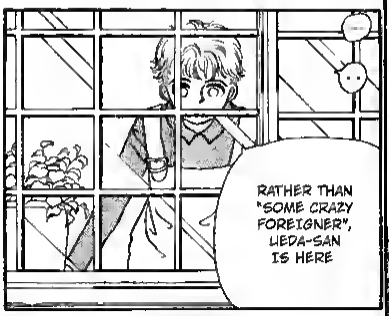
HE'S NOT HERE...

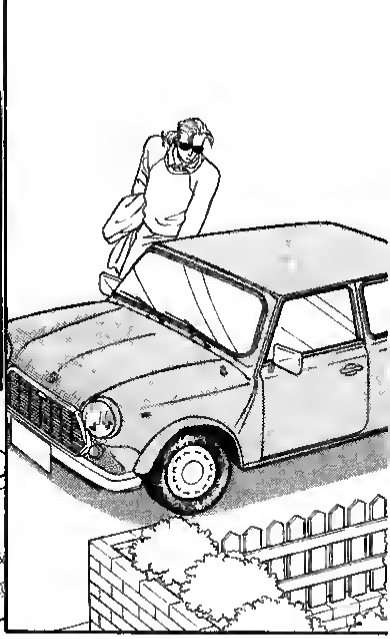
IT'S ALMOST LIKE YOU'RE ATTACHED TO THAT GIANT SHEET.
WELL... IT'S NOT A SHEET.
CHI-YAKO?
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN MAKING ALL THIS TIME?
WILL YOU SEE IF YOU CAN WORK OUT THAT PROBLEM FOR ME?
I HAD TO GIVE UP ON IT.
しゃき
OKAY
THIS WINTER BREAK,
THERE'S A DISTRICT KENDO TOURNA-MENT.
I PROM-ISED I'D GO CHEER FOR HIM.
船橋さん がんばってください!!

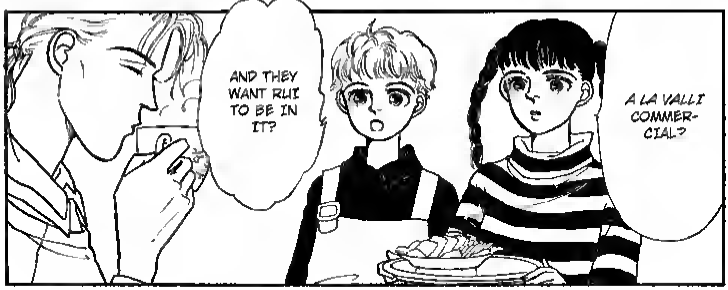
Note. *Banner says Funahashi-san, do your best!

BECAUSE SHOUTING IN A LOUD VOICE WOULD BE TOO EMBARRASSING FOR ME
AND YOU'LL BE WAVING THAT TO CHEER HIM ON?!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING...?
がんばってください
SO...
YOU FIGURED THAT WAVING THAT THING... WOULD BE LESS EMBARRASSING?
.....
WELL, THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL STAND OUT...
IT'S NOT A BIT TOO SHOWY, IS IT? I WANTED IT TO STAND OUT
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS GIRL
I CAN'T DECIDE WHETHER SHE'S AN INTROVERT OR AN EXTROVERT

だだだだ
バタン
TELL HIM I'M NOT HERE!
CHIYAKO! SOME CRAZY FOR-EIGNER IS GOING TO TURN UP! DON'T YOU DARE LET HIM INTO THE HOUSE!
ぼやん
.....
"CRAZY FOR-EIGNER"?
WHO KNOWS?
THE MODEL-ING AGENCY PHONED
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE GOING SOME-WHERE FROM THIS MORNING ONWARDS

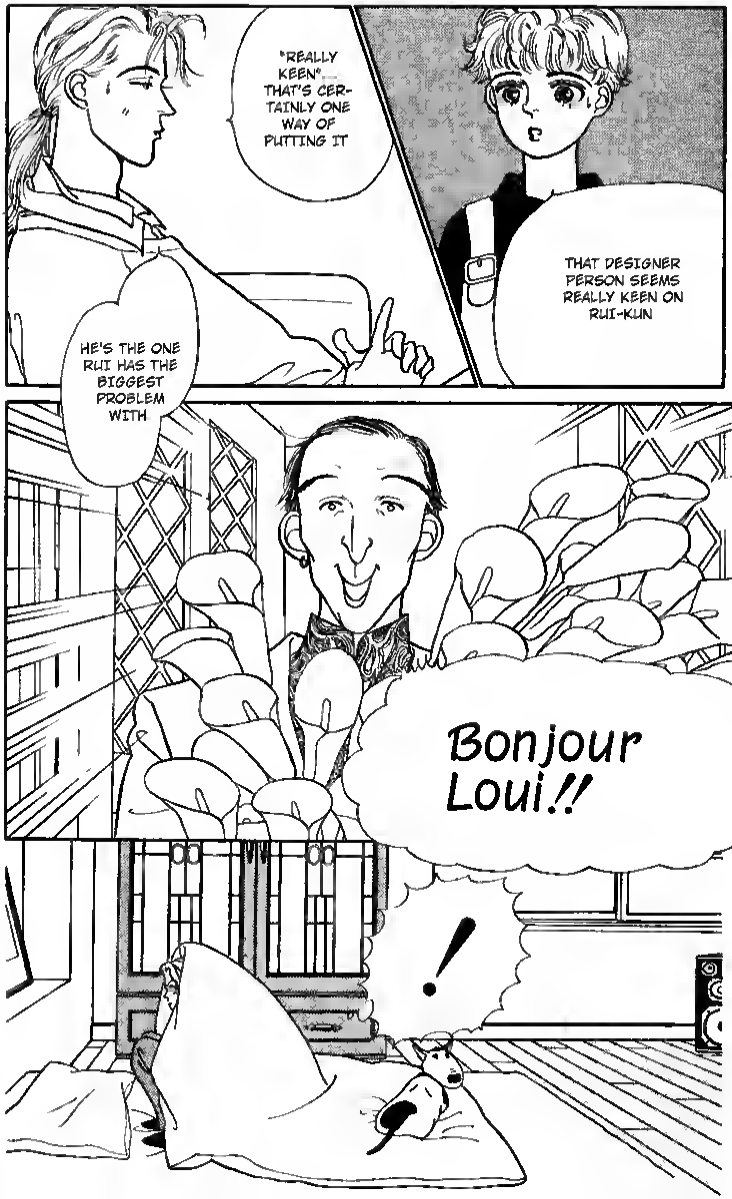

RATHER THAN "SOME CRAZY FOREIGNER", UEDA-SAN IS HERE




AND THEY WANT RUI TO BE IN IT?
A LA VALLI COMMERCIAL?

TH... THAT'S AMAZING! LA VALLI IS LIKE THE MOST FAMOUS OUT OF ALL THE FASHION BRANDS!!

I resign!
Please go find some other model
WELL, THAT PART HAD ALL BEEN ARRANGED.
UNTIL HE HEARD THAT THE PERSON WHO DESIGNED THIS RANGE WAS JEAN ARNULLE.
JEAN ARNULLE, HUH? ISN'T THAT THE DESIGNER WHOSE SHOW RUI DIDN'T TURN UP FOR?
SO HE'S THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO NEVER LEARNS, HUH?
NOW THAT HE'S DONE THIS TWICE, IT WILL BE A PROBLEM FOR THE BUSINESS' FAITH IN HIM.
IT'LL TAKE A LOT OF PERSUASION FOR THEM TO TAKE HIM BACK. THEY WERE REALLY COUNTING ON HIM THIS TIME


THAT DESIGNER PERSON SEEMS REALLY KEEN ON RUI-KUN
"REALLY KEEN"... THAT'S CERTAINLY ONE WAY OF PUTTING IT
HE'S THE ONE RUI HAS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM WITH
Bonjour Loui!!
!

BONJOUR, MADEMOI-SELLES!
MY NAME IZ JEAN ARNELLE.
RUII IS EE HERE?
merci ♪
CHIYAKO?!
RUUIIII!!
GULP.

I TOLD YOU NOT TO LET HIM INTO THE HOUSE! YOU CALL YOURSELF MY SISTER?!
.....
BUT I AM FINE NOW! BECOZ I 'AVE ONCE AGAIN ZE CHANCE TO WORK WIZ YOUUU!
I CRIED FOR ZA WHOLE WEEK AFTER LAST TIME!
knock
knock
RUIII! OREN ZE DOOR, PLEASE! I CAME ALL ZE WAY FROM PARIS TO SEE YOUR PRETTY FACE AND PERSUADE YOU TO BE IN MY SHOW!!
NO WAY!!

AND HOW'S RUI-KUN?
HE'S ON THE RUN
.....
IT'S A SHAME THAT POOR UEDA-SAN IS CAUGHT UP IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL, THOUGH
OR BRINGING THEM OVER HIMSELF
EVERY SINGLE DAY, THAT GUY IS SENDING FLOWERS OR SPECIAL SWEETS
IT'S INCREDIBLE
OH
NICE TRY, RUI
Studying for a test, don't come in!

YOU'RE JUST GONNA HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT
YOU'RE IN A LINE OF WORK WHERE THE OTHER SIDE IS OFTEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU.
ISN'T IT TIME TO STOP WITH THE SELFISHNESS?
AND JUST PUT UP WITH HIM?!
THAT CREEPY PERVERT?!
AND WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN HE HAS TO QUICKLY SEW SOMETHING ONTO THE CLOTHES I'M WEARING?
WHILE I'M INCAPACITATED, HE'LL SUDDENLY EMBRACE ME FROM BEHIND AND START NESTLING HIS CHEEK AGAINST MINE!
THEN HE'LL DRAG ME TO A LOVE HOTEL AND. .
HOW DESPICABLE!!
H...
HOW...

USING THE NEEDLE AS AN EXCUSE TO FEEL AROUND UNDER MY CLOTHES. BUT I GUESS THAT'S FINE WITH YOU!
JUST THINK-ING ABOUT IT IS REALLY GROSS!
WHY DID YOU ACCEPT THE JOB IN THE FIRST PLACE THEN?
NOBODY TOLD ME THAT THAT GUY WAS IN CHARGE OF THE CLOTHES
I'VE TOLD YOU I DON'T WANNA DO IT ALREADY JEEEZ YOU'RE SO PERSIS-TENT
SINCE I'M GOING TO BE ON THE STAFF THIS TIME, I CAN BE YOUR BODY-GUARD IF YOU'RE THAT SCARED
SO YOU THINK YOU'RE IN A POSITION TO CHOSE THE DESIGNER, DO YOU?!

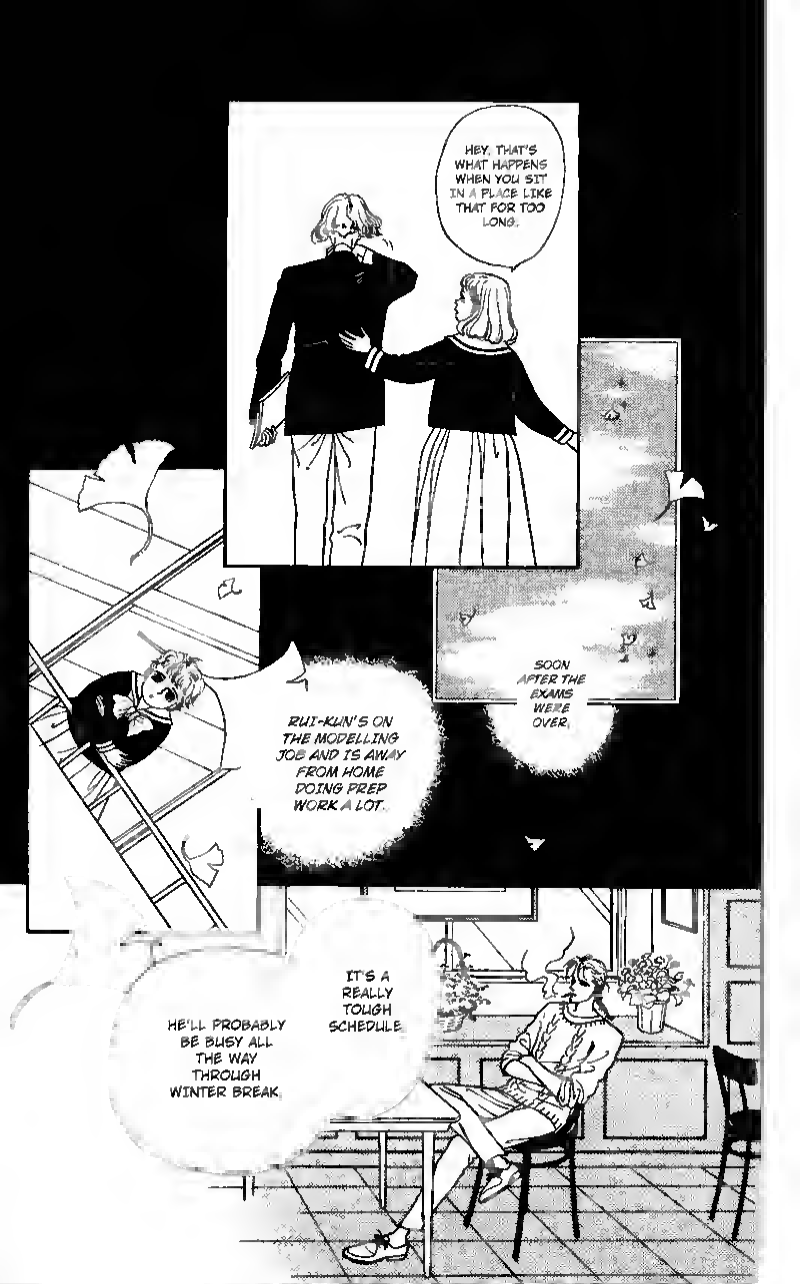
THEY'RE THE ONES BEING RUDE AND SELF-ISH, NOT ME!!
I'M NOT SOME DRESS-UP DOLL THAT SOMEONE CAN DRESS AND UNDRESS AS THEY PLEASE AND THEN MOVE MY BODY INTO STYLISH POSES!
THIS MODEL-ING LARK IS JUST A PART-TIME JOB FOR ME!
I'LL QUIT THIS BUSINESS ANYTIME I LIKE!!

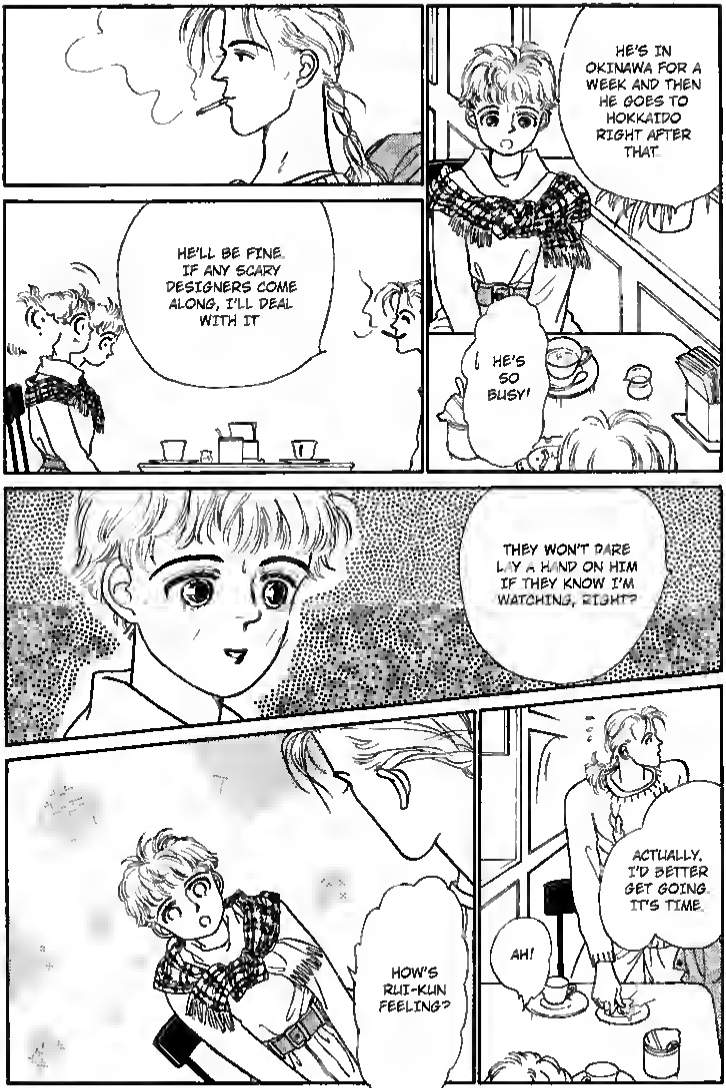
SORRY ABOUT THAT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED TRYING TO PERSUADE YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE
バタン
?
WORKING WITH YOU IS A PAIN IN THE ASS.
THE SOONER YOU QUIT, THE BETTER.

THAT BUSI-
NESS IS
BEAUTIFUL,
GLAMOROUS,
AND
ENCHANTING...
BUT..
HE
DOESN'T
SEE IT
LIKE
THAT.

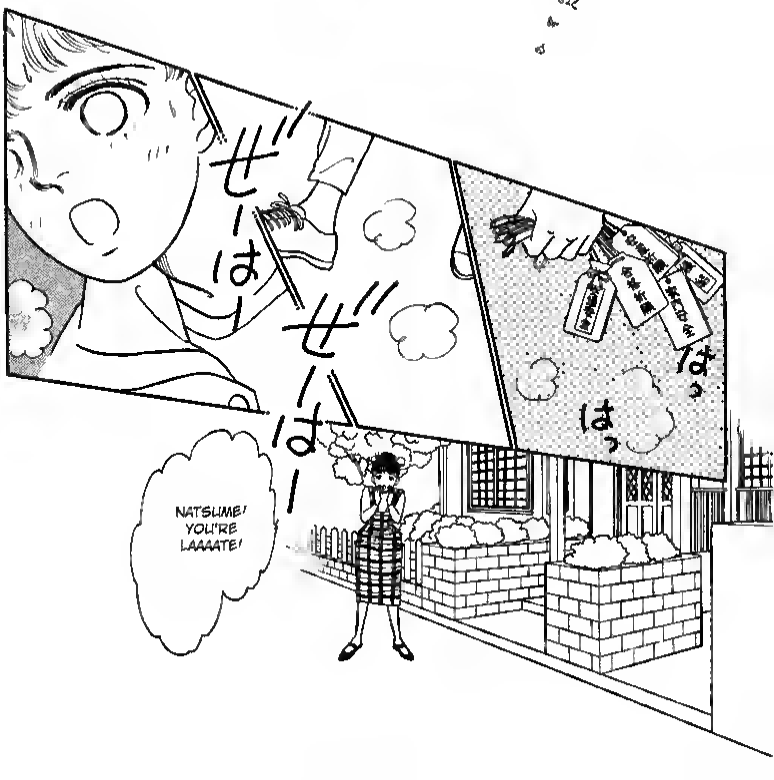
IS THERE ANY-
THING I CAN DO
TO HELP HIM
VIEW IT
DIFFERENTLY?

RUI-KUN, THE 3RD LESSON EXAM IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. YOU HAVE TO COME BACK TO THE CLASSROOM NOW
EARTH TO RUI-KUN.
HUH?
OH, RIGHT


HEY, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SIT IN A PLACE LIKE THAT FOR TOO LONG.
SOON AFTER THE EXAMS WERE OVER.
RUI-KUN'S ON THE MODELLING JOB AND IS AWAY FROM HOME DOING PREP WORK A LOT.
IT'S A REALLY TOUGH SCHEDULE.
HE'LL PROBABLY BE BUSY ALL THE WAY THROUGH WINTER BREAK.

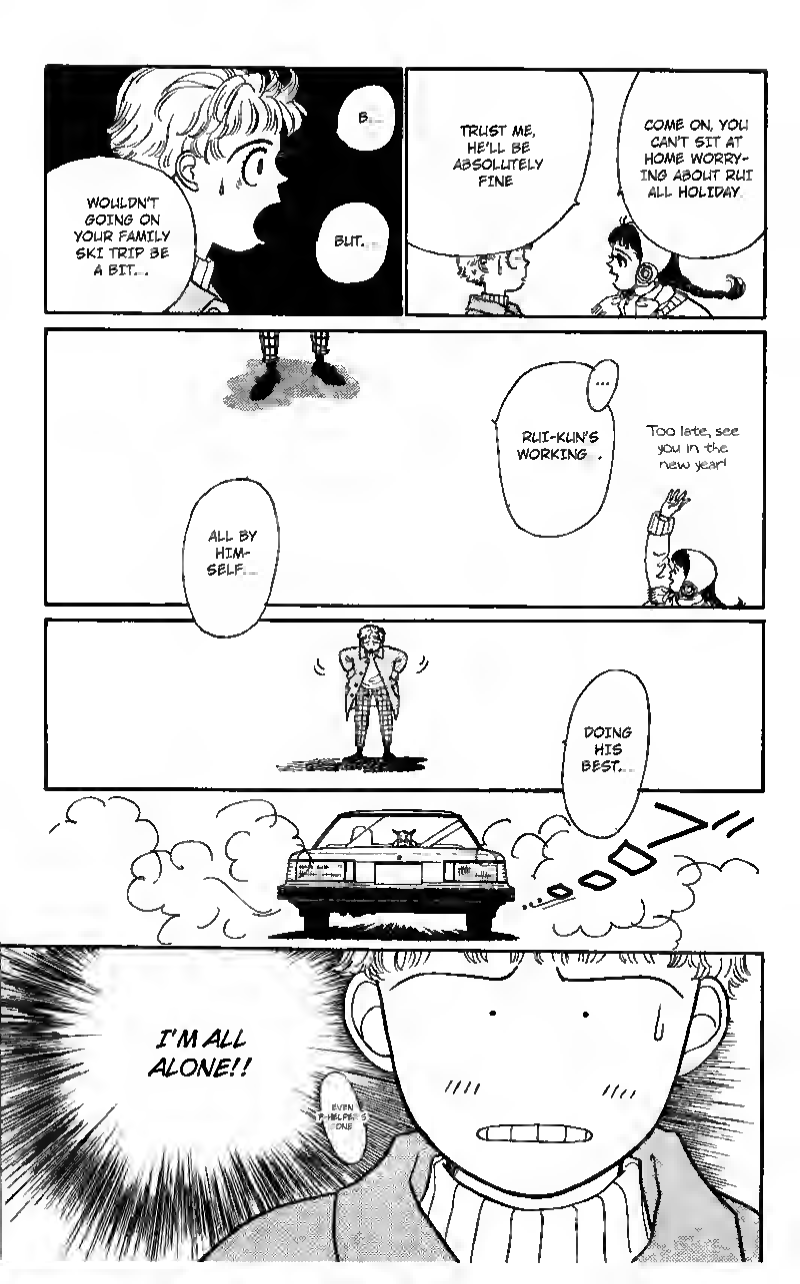

HE'S IN OKINAWA FOR A WEEK AND THEN HE GOES TO HOKKAIDO RIGHT AFTER THAT.
HE'S SO BUSY!
HE'LL BE FINE. IF ANY SCARY DESIGNERS COME ALONG, I'LL DEAL WITH IT.
THEY WON'T DARE LAY A HAND ON HIM IF THEY KNOW I'M WATCHING, RIGHT?
ACTUALLY, I'D BETTER GET GOING. IT'S TIME.
AH!
HOW'S RUI-KUN FEELING?

HE'S TOTALLY FINE.
SINCE THIS IS HIS LAST JOB, HE'S NOT AS SELFISH AND IS GOING TO DO HIS BEST FOR THIS SHOOT.
LAST JOB?
Uuh Im gonna be late.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
AFTER HE'S DONE WITH THIS COMMERCIAL, HE'S GOING TO QUIT MODELLING.


ぜーはー
ぜーはー
はっ
はっ
NATSUMI! YOU'RE LAAAATE!

AWW, NOOOO!
RUI-KUN JUST LEFT.
I...
I WANTED TO SEE HIM OFF...
WELL, THERE'S NO POINT CRYING OVER SPILT MILK.
PLUS, HE'LL BE BACK BEFORE THE END OF WINTER BREAK.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT SO EASILY?! RUI-KUN IS GOING TO BE HOPPING ALL OVER JAPAN!
WELL, AT LEAST HE'S STILL IN THE COUNTRY.
AND HE'LL BE BACK BEFORE WE KNOW IT.
I... I KNOW, BUT...

*Zaou or Zao is a mountain in the north of Honshu. It is the home to many ski resorts.


WOULDN'T GOING ON YOUR FAMILY SKI TRIP BE A BIT...
B...
BUT...
TRUST ME, HE'LL BE ABSOLUTELY FINE
COME ON, YOU CAN'T SIT AT HOME WORRYING ABOUT RUI ALL HOLIDAY
...
RUI-KUN'S WORKING.
Too late, see you in the new year!
ALL BY HIMSELF...
DOING HIS BEST...
I'M ALL ALONE!!
EVEN HELPING ONE

MY POOR RUI-KUN IS IN THE CLUTCHES OF AN EVIL PERVERTED FASHION GOD...
AND HIS FAMILY HAVE MERRILY GONE SKIING!
WILL THEY FACE DIVINE RETRIBUTION?
CAR CRASH!
.....
NO, NO!
PLEASE CANCEL THE...
DIVINE RETRIBUTION.

I'M REALLY COLD!
ぴゅんっっ
.....
AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE...

HOPEFULLY NEW YEAR'S EVE WILL BE BETTER BUT I DOUBT IT.
WELL, THAT WAS A REALLY BORING CHRISTMAS.
I'VE DONE IT.
CAN'T YOU GO CLEAN UP YOUR ROOM?
IF YOU HAVE TIME TO SIT DOWN LIKE THAT,
KYA! THE KOUHAKU* STARTS IN AN HOUR!!
WE HAVE TO FINISH SPRING-CLEANING BEFORE THE NEW YEAR*!
THEN GO CLEAN THE KITCHEN A BIT!

*In Japan, it is customary to clean your house thoroughly before the New Year. The Kouhaku Uta Gassen is a popular TV special shown annually in which two teams of singers and bands sing of [illegible] the red team is made up of women and the white team contains only men.

HYAA! IT'S SNOWING!
YOSHIKAZU, YOU'VE LEFT YOUR BIKE OUTSIDE.
I'LL GO GET IT.
WHO'S THAT?

IS THIS KOMURO NATSUME'S HOUSE?
AAAAAH! YOU'RE THE GUY IN THE PICTURE ON NATSUME'S WALL!!

RUU...
AH,
SO I CAME TO THE RIGHT PLACE AFTER ALL.

THERE'S NOBODY AT HOME, AND I DON'T HAVE THE KEY.
I WALKED ALL THE DAMN WAY HERE!
OH, RUI, YOU POOR THING.
THEY'RE ALL SKIING IN ZAOU. THEY TOOK P-HELPER WITH THEM.
……
RUI-KUN!!
I'M SO WORN OUT… I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO DIE

FILMING FINISHED QUICKLY, SO I CAME BACK EARLIER THAN I THOUGHT I WOULD
CHIYAKO AND THE OTHERS AREN'T COMING BACK UNTIL AFTER NEW YEAR'S.
HANG IN THERE, RUI-KUN!
BUT WHEN I GOT HOME, NOBODY WAS THERE
SUCH A..
PAIN IN THE ASS...
IT'S OKAY NOW, RUI-KUN!
I'LL SAVE YOU!
WH...WHAT THE...?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT GUY IN THE PORCH?!
ぎゅっ

YOUR HUSBAND IS STOOD RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
CARRY HIM INTO MY ROOM, I'LL WARM HIM UP IN MY FUTON!
MY, MY, MY!
ドキッ
DON'T CRY, NATSUME IF WE TAKE SOME OF HIS CLOTHES OFF, IT'LL BE EASIER TO...
SHE DOESN'T CARE
CARRY HIS LEGS LIKE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO!
YOSHIKAZU!! DON'T STAND THERE BLUSHING!

AH.
SORRY, DID THE NOISE WAKE YOU?
THIS IS YOUR ROOM?

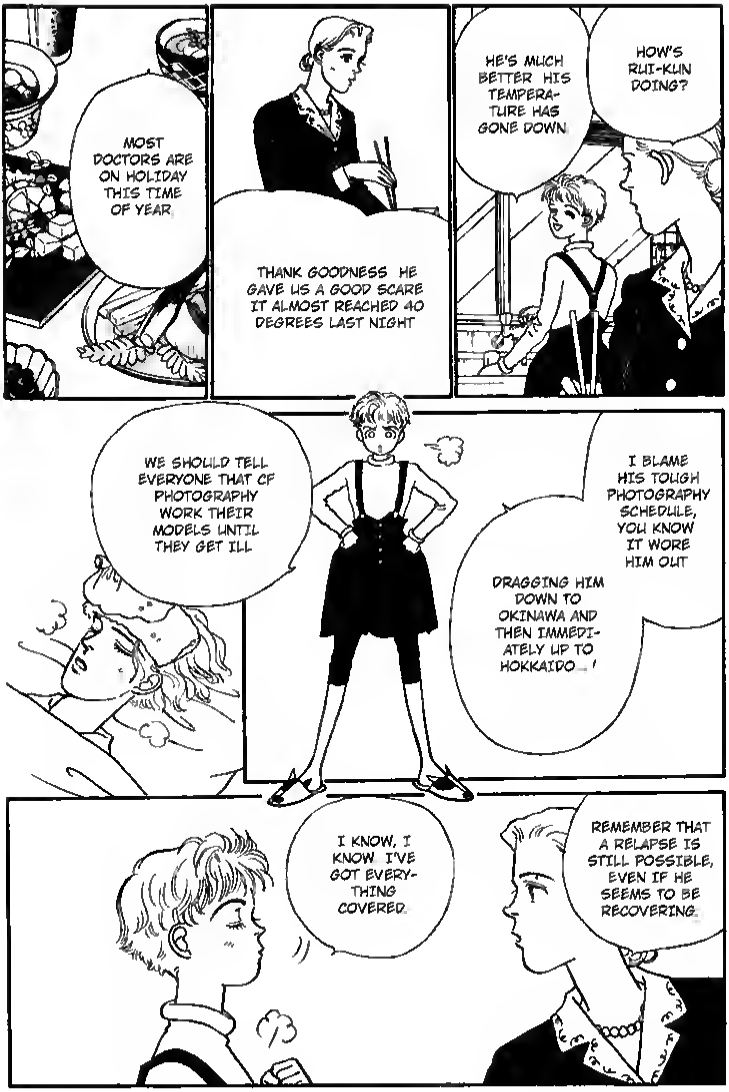
YEAH.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
I'M GOING TO GO SLEEP IN MY BROTHER'S ROOM.
HOW COME?
YOU CAN SLEEP WITH ME IN THIS BED IF YOU LIKE
HEY.
.....
WELL, AT LEAST THAT MEANS HE'S BACK TO HIS USUAL SELF
NOT THAT AGAIN!

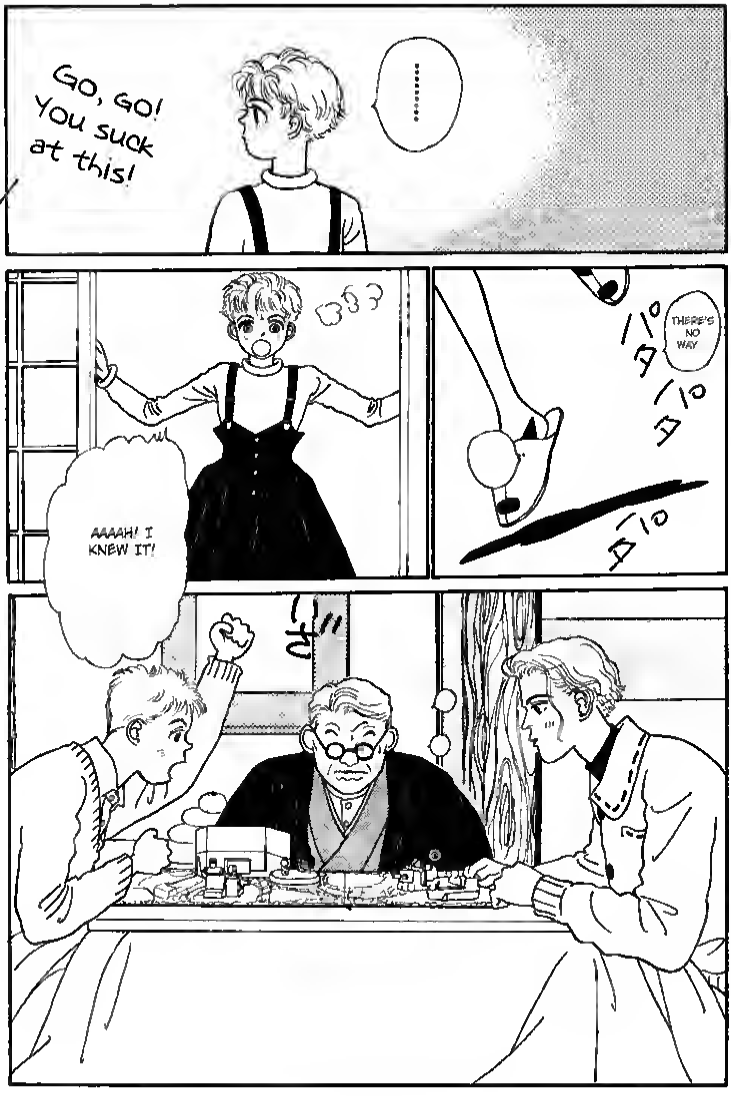
*He s referring to floating ice on the sea near Hokkaido that has become a tourist attraction
THE SEA-SONAL ICE DRIFT*
I WASN'T EXPECTING MUCH, BUT...
IT REALLY WAS BREATH-TAKING.
YOU SHOULD ...
ALSO GO SEE IT SOMETIME.
I WILL.

RUI...
KUN?
FOR A
MOMENT...

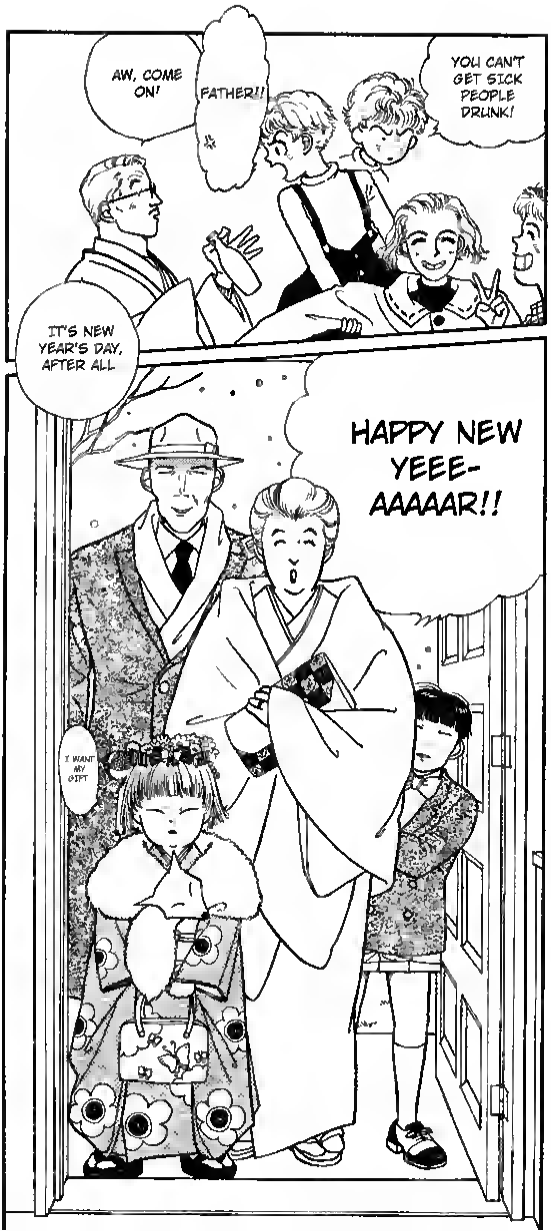
IT WAS LIKE TIME HAD STOPPED..
SNOW REALLY IS..
AND I REALIZED JUST HOW BEAUTIFUL...
JUST FOR A MOMENT.

AH, IT'S SNOWING AGAIN.

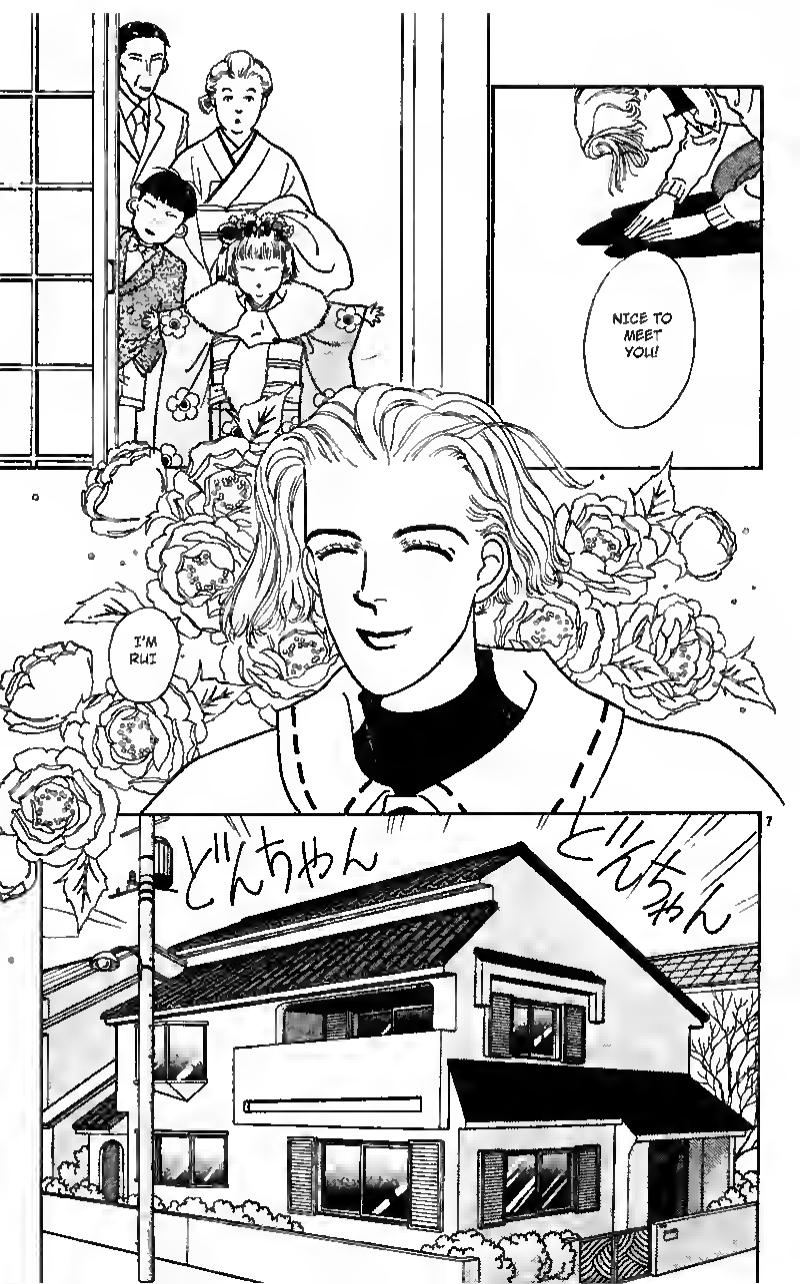

MOST DOCTORS ARE ON HOLIDAY THIS TIME OF YEAR.
THANK GOODNESS HE GAVE US A GOOD SCARE IT ALMOST REACHED 40 DEGREES LAST NIGHT
HE'S MUCH BETTER HIS TEMPERATURE HAS GONE DOWN.
HOW'S RUI-KUN DOING?
WE SHOULD TELL EVERYONE THAT CF PHOTOGRAPHY WORK THEIR MODELS UNTIL THEY GET ILL
DRAGGING HIM DOWN TO OKINAWA AND THEN IMMEDIATELY UP TO HOKKAIDO...!
I BLAME HIS TOUGH PHOTOGRAPHY SCHEDULE, YOU KNOW IT WORE HIM OUT
I KNOW, I KNOW. I'VE GOT EVERYTHING COVERED.
REMEMBER THAT A RELAPSE IS STILL POSSIBLE, EVEN IF HE SEEMS TO BE RECOVERING.

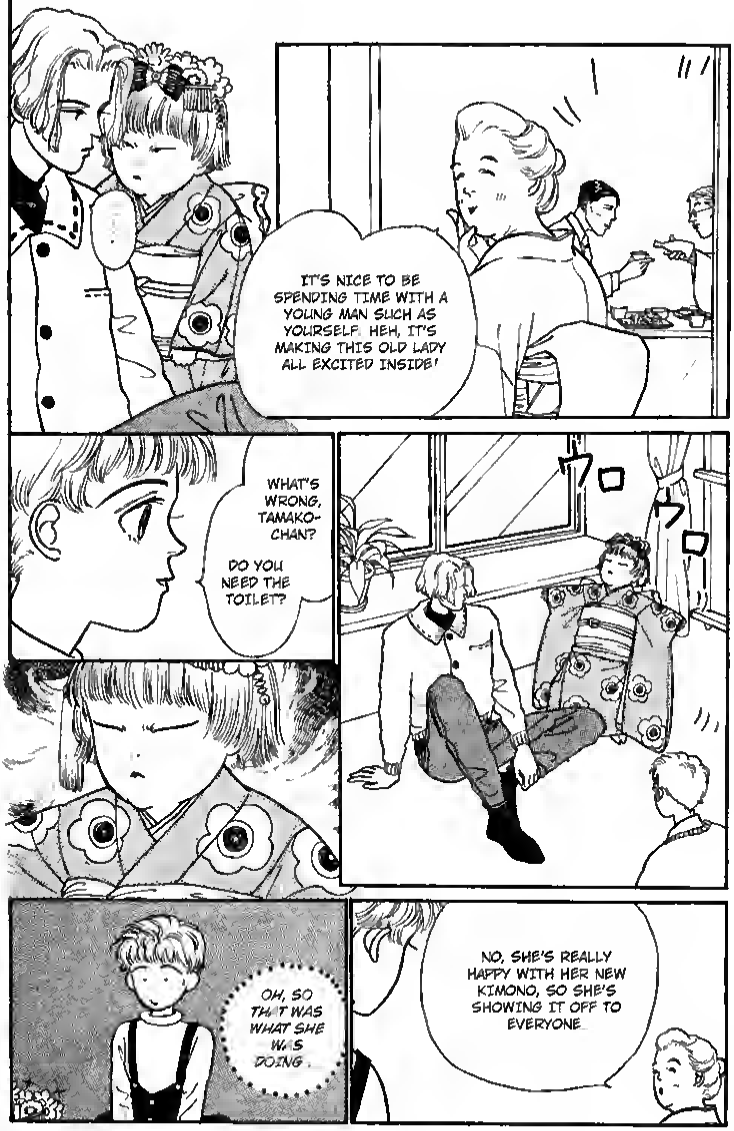

Go, go! You suck at this!
.....
THERE'S NO WAY
AAAAH! I KNEW IT!

YEAHHH! I DID IT!
I'VE MADE A FULL RECOVERY
RUI-KUN, SHOULDN'T YOU BE RESTING?!
AHH, I LOST AGAIN...
WOW!
ニコん
HUH?
YOU HAVEN'T RECOVERED YET, YOUR FACE IS RED YOUR FEVER MIGHT COME BACK...
ONE MORE ROUND PLEASE!


AW, COME ON!
FATHER!!
YOU CAN'T GET SICK PEOPLE DRUNK!
IT'S NEW YEAR'S DAY, AFTER ALL
HAPPY NEW YEEE-AAAAAR!!
I WANT MY GIFT

THEY'RE HERE...!!
?
FROM THE DEMON SIBLINGS
THE VISIT WE RECEIVE AT NEW YEAR AND THE BON FESTIVAL.
H...HELLO THERE
WHERE'S MY NEW YEAR'S GIFT?
WHERE'S MY NEW YEAR'S GIFT?!
WHO ARE THEY?
MY FATHER'S SISTER'S CHILDREN...


NICE TO MEET YOU!!
I'M RUI
どんちゃん
どんちゃん


IT'S NICE TO BE SPENDING TIME WITH A YOUNG MAN SUCH AS YOURSELF. HEH, IT'S MAKING THIS OLD LADY ALL EXCITED INSIDE!
WHAT'S WRONG, TAMAKO-CHAN?
DO YOU NEED THE TOILET?
ウロウロ
NO, SHE'S REALLY HAPPY WITH HER NEW KIMONO, SO SHE'S SHOWING IT OFF TO EVERYONE.
OH, SO THAT WAS WHAT SHE WAS DOING.

WOW, YOUR KIMONO REALLY SUITS YOU, TAMAKO-CHAN! IT'S REALLY CUTE, LIKE YOU!
HONESTLY, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! SHE'S NOT CUTE
だんっ☆
KYAAA! WHAT ARE YOU HURTING ME FOR?

DON'T TELL ME. .
AH! I LET DEMON NO.1 OUT OF MY SIGHT!
バタン
NOOOOOOOO!!

KYAAAA!!
OH, TAKAFUMI! WHAT KIND OF FUN HAVE YOU BEEN HAVING WITH YOUR BIG COUSIN, YOSHIKAZU?
I WONDER WHAT HAS PISSED UP THERE.
SI... SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN INTO THIS SORT OF THING?!
My poor baby!
YOSHIKAZU! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING SHOWING THAT TO A CHILD?!
THE SOONER TODAY ENDS, THE BETTER.
I'VE DISCOVERED MY EXPOSURE OF MY BROTHER'S PORN BOOK MADE THE ATMOSPHERE EVEN WORSE.

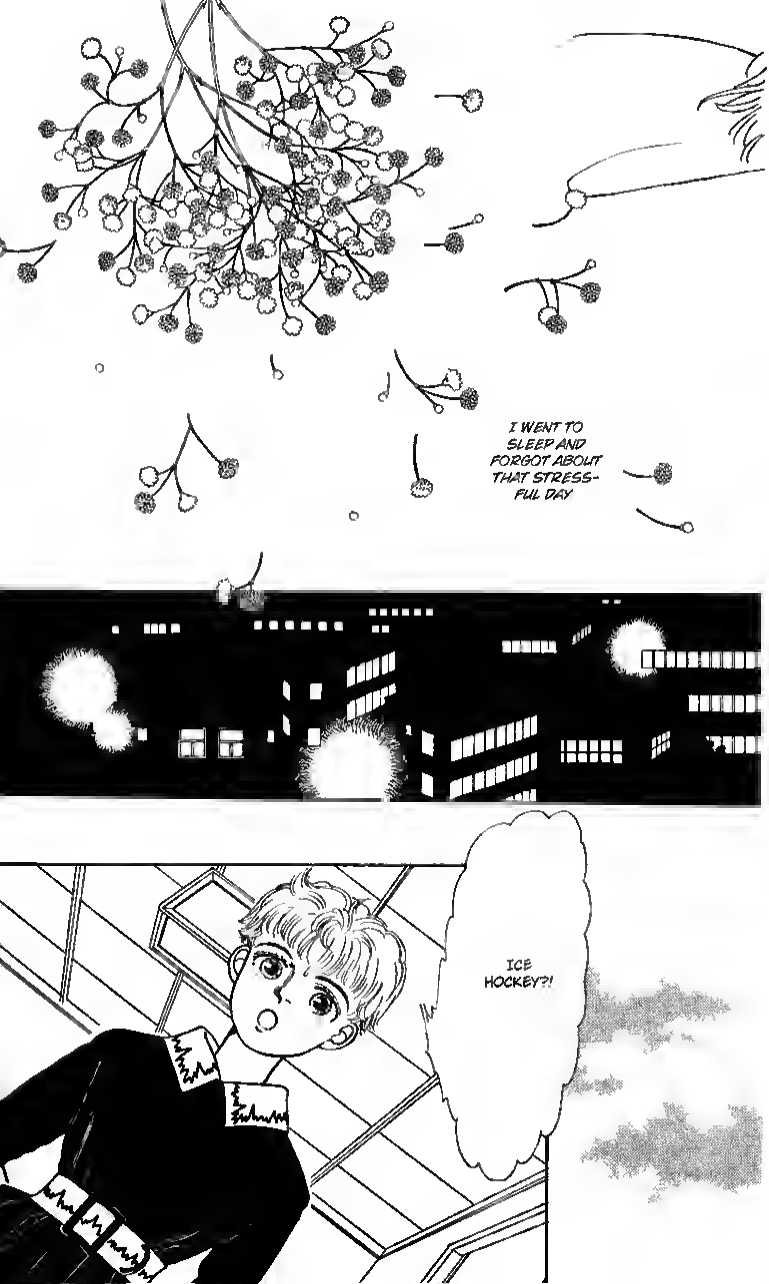
NATSUME, BRING OUT SOME MORE HOT SAKE PLEASE!
WHY AM I BUSY DOING ALL THE CLEANING UP?
GRRRR...
AT A TIME WHEN RUI IS IN THE SAME HOUSE AS ME
TAMAKO SEEMS REALLY FOND OF YOU!
HE HAS COMPLETELY RECOVERED FROM HIS COLD, TOO.
IS SOME TIME IN WHICH WE CAN TALK ALONE TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR?!
AHHH, THAT NIGHT FELT SO ROMANTIC!

IT'S NOT FAAAIRR!
I WANT TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT!
にっ

HEY, TAMAKO, LET GO!
.....
MY AUNT'S FAMILY STAYED AS LONG AS THEY POSSIBLY COULD.

RUI-KUN WAS THE ONLY ONE DIDN'T BECOME A VICTIM OF THE DEMON DOUBLE-ACT.
I CAN DEAL WITH A COUPLE OF KIDS
I HOPE THE WEATHER WILL BE NICE TOMORROW.

IF IT IS, THEN I'LL GO SOME-WHERE NICE WITH RUI-KUN


I WENT TO SLEEP AND FORGOT ABOUT THAT STRESS-FUL DAY
ICE HOCKEY?!

S SINCE WHEN?!
TODAY IS THE FINAL GAME OF THE KANTO TOURNAMENT
ICE HOCKEY IS A SPORT PLAYED ON ICE, ISN'T IT?
OF COURSE, IT'S ICE HOCKEY
WE PROMISED WE'D GO SEE IT TOGETHER
RUI-KUN HAS ONLY JUST RECOVERED FROM HIS COLD
BUT BUT...
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR DATE TODAY!
ARE YOU BLIND?! HE'S TOTALLY FINE NOW
YOU'RE NOT MY MOTHER, NATSUME
YOSHIKAZU, NEW YEAR'S IS OVER NOW DIDN'T YOU PROMISE TO STUDY FOR THAT EXAM YOU'RE TAKING SOON?
MY LAST RESORT!

I CAN'T STOP THEM...
R... RIGHT!
THAT'S TYPICAL OF HER
SHE NEVER STOPS NAGGING ME
ヒュッ
ダダダ
I WANT TO COME WITH YOU!!

IT CAN'T BE HELPED
MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO GET RID OF YOSHIKAZU SOMEHOW

IN SPITE OF COMPLAINING BEFORE, SHE WAS THE ONE MAKING THE MOST NOISE...
I CAN STILL HEAR THE CHEERING IN MY HEAD...
HUH? MY VOICE IS...
BUT... I GOT REALLY INTO THE GAME. IT WAS EXCI...
YOU'VE WORN YOUR VOICE OUT...
HAA! I'M NOT SURPRISED. YOU WERE SCREAMING WAY TOO LOUD!
IT WAS EMBARRASSING!
GET YOURSELF HOME, HOSHIKAZU.
AW, BUT..
IN THAT CASE, I'LL GO TOO.
I'M SO HUNGRY!

YOU ARE JUST SO...
I'D PREFER TO EAT YOUR MOTHER'S COOKING
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
CAN'T YOU STAY OUT WITH ME? I'LL BUY YOU DINNER AS A NEW YEAR'S GIFT!
RUI-KUN...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME DRINK TEA AND CHAT WITH ME?
IN THAT CASE,
HA!
LISTENING TO YOU CHAT IN THAT HOARSE, MAN-LIKE VOICE WOULD GRATE ON MY EARS

COULDN'T MY SOULMATE HAVE BEEN
A KIND PERSON WHO WAS A BIT NICER TO ME?
Ah... MY THROAT HURTS.

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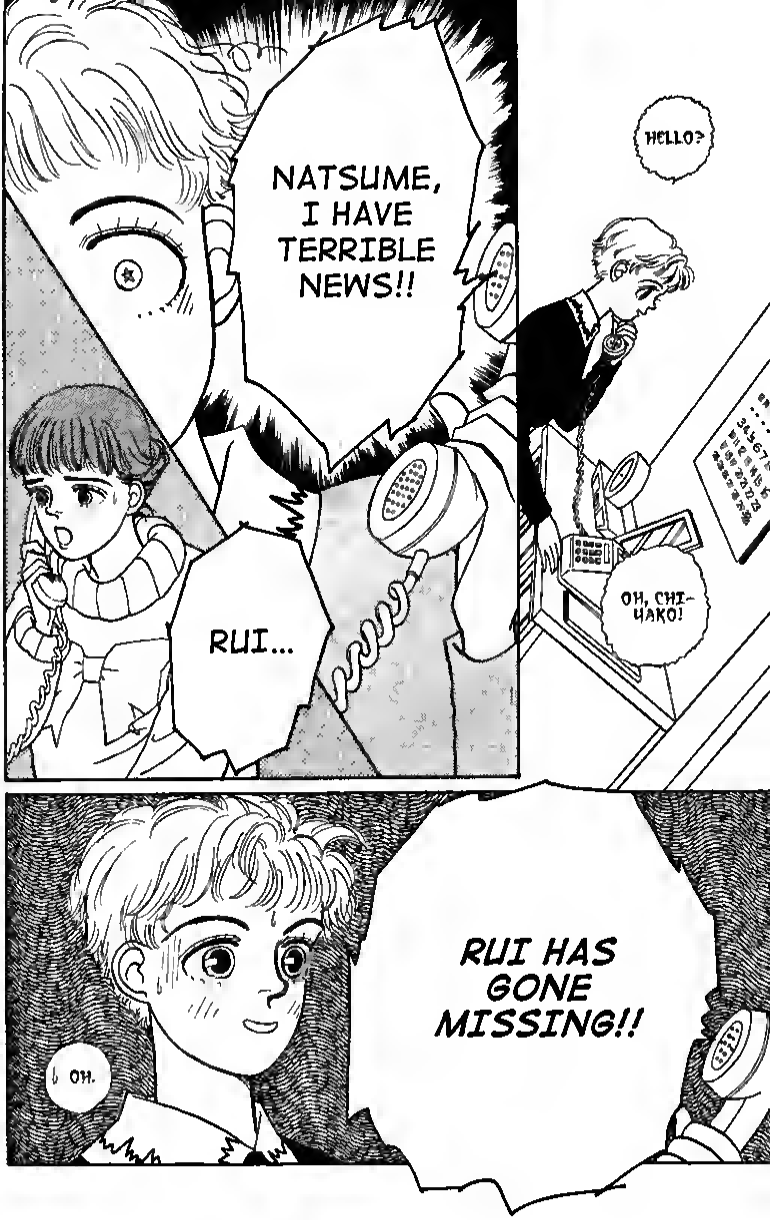
NATSUMEEEE! HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF THE BATH!
AH!
AH!
THIS IS STRANGE THERE S BEEN NO IMPROVEMENT IN MY VOICE YET
SHOULDN'T YOU LET RUI-KUN GO BEFORE YOU?
I'M OUT ALREADY!
I'M NEXT!!

THEN, WE'LL SHARE THE BATH.
NO WAY, THE GUEST CAN'T BE LAST!
I DON'T MIND AT ALL.
NO REASON
WHAT ARE YOU BLUSHING FOR?
RRRK


NATSUME, I HAVE TERRIBLE NEWS!!
RUI...
HELLO?
OH, CHI-HAKO!
RUI HAS GONE MISSING!!
OH.

YOUR TEMPTING REMARKS HIT THE BULLSEYE...
I FORGOT TO TELL HER..
THE JOB HE WAS DOING FINISHED REALLY EARLY,
AND HE WENT HOME, BUT NOBODY HAS HEARD ANYTHING FROM HIM SINCE!
こうした女の 雨音
しあわせ なんだろう
馬鹿な口

*Joking with a sad feeling by Beat Takeshi
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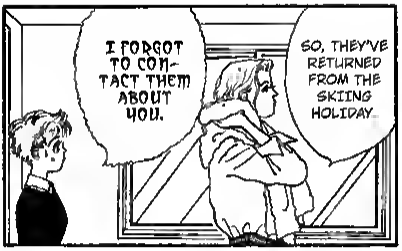
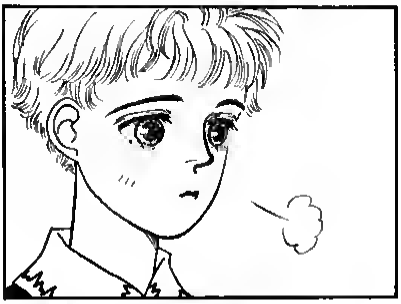
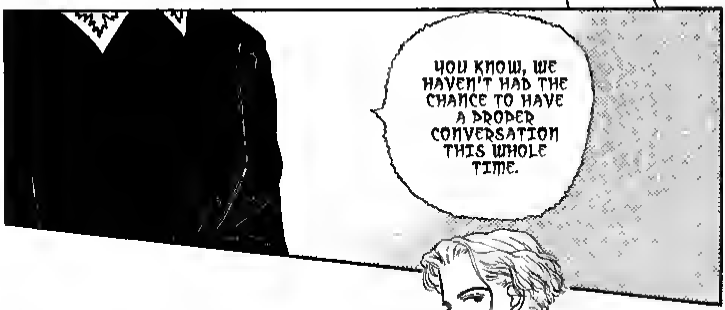

I FORGOT TO CONTACT THEM ABOUT YOU.
SO, THEY'VE RETURNED FROM THE SKIING HOLIDAY.

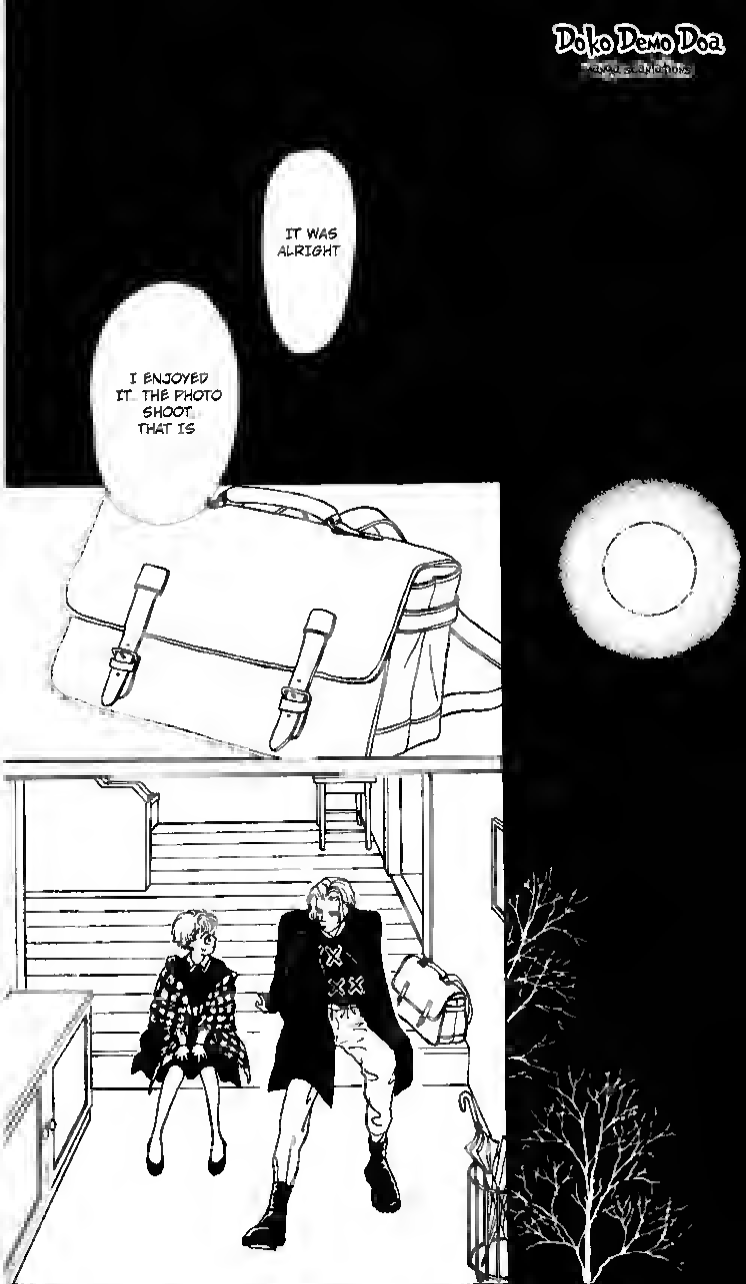
THEY'RE COMING TO GET ME NOW?




YOU KNOW, WE HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO HAVE A PROPER CONVERSATION THIS WHOLE TIME.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WELL, I JUST...
WANTED TO HEAR HOW THE PHOTO SHOOT WENT,
WHETHER THE TRIP WAS FUN... THINGS LIKE THAT!
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THAT?
BECAUSE! ON YOUR FIRST NIGHT HERE, YOU TOLD ME A BIT ABOUT IT!
YOU SAID THAT THE FLOATING ICE WAS BREATH-TAKING.
I FELT LIKE THOSE WORDS WERE COMING STRAIGHT FROM YOUR HEART.
I WANTED YOU TO TELL ME MORE ABOUT IT!
ARE YOU SURE IT WAS ME WHO SAID THAT?
YES...?
.....


IT WAS ALRIGHT
I ENJOYED IT. THE PHOTO SHOOT THAT IS

TO SOME EXTENT.
I DID MY WORK SERIOUSLY FOR ONCE
THAT WAS A FIRST FOR ME

IT WAS MYSTERIOUS.
I WAS WATCHING THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ON LOCATION.
IT WASN'T EVEN DAWN YET. ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAD COME FROM HOME TO HELP WITH THE SHOOT...
AND NOT ONE OF THEM WAS MOANING OR COMPLAINING.
WERE MOVING HEAVY PROPS AND TOOLS AROUND CONTINUOUSLY.
I THOUGHT IT WAS AMAZING.
EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY EXHAUSTED,
YOU COULD TELL FROM THEIR EYES THAT ON THE INSIDE, THEY FELT ALIVE.

AS THE MODEL, I FELT LIKE...
I HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BECOMING THE VISUALISATION OF THEIR DREAMS
WELL, I FEEL LIKE I'VE FINALLY REALISED SOMETHING IMPORTANT

DON'T LIE TO ME AFTER THE SHOW, YOU WERE ACTING LIKE YOU DISLIKED IT
AFTER ALL, I'M NOT PARTICULARLY SUITED FOR IT
YOU'RE WRONG!
AT THE FASHION SHOW, I THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE THE COOLEST-LOOKING MODEL, RUI-KUN!
SO DO YOU STILL WANT TO QUIT MODELING?
I JUST DON'T HAVE THE STAR QUALITY THAT YOU GUYS DO
LIKE I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO REACH YOU.
I JUST FELT THAT YOU WERE SOMEBODY IN A DIFFERENT WORLD TO ME.
HUH?
TH... THAT WAS...
.....
YOU FREAKIN' IDIOT!

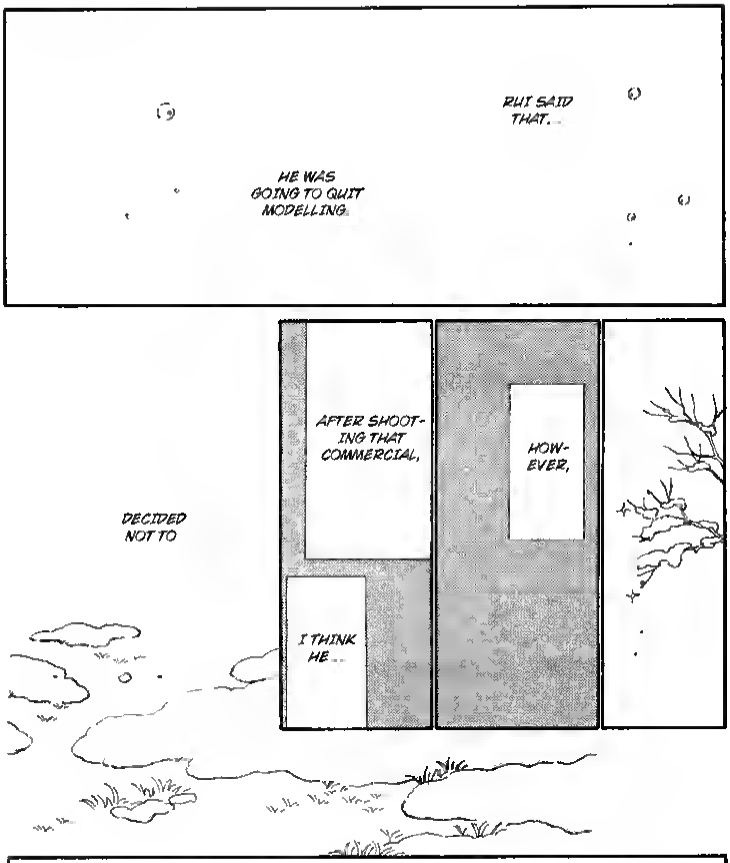
キ..キーッ!
AH, THEY'RE HERE
WHY NOW?
AH, HE'S GOING TO LEAVE
HEY
YOU WERE REPLACING THE COLD TOWELS ON MY FOREHEAD ALL NIGHT LONG
DIDN'T THAT TIRE YOU OUT?

NOT AT ALL! I'M TOUGHER THAN THAT!
HMMM?
ガチャ

YOU SILLY BOY!
RU!
WAH!
THAT SOUNDS NICE
WOW SKIING
WE WERE ENGROSSED WITH ALL THE SKIING SO WE...
We caused you so much trou ble.
It was our pleasure!
YOUR FACE IS REALLY RED
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE A FEVER
NATSUME, HAVE YOU CAUGHT A COLD?
HUH?
OKAY, OKAY!

MAYBE YOU'VE ...
CAUGHT MY COLD ..

RUI-KUN MANAGED TO PUT UP WITH THIS COLD! IT'S NOT SO BAD...
BECAUSE I HAD CAUGHT A COLD.
IT SEEMS THAT MY THROAT WAS HURTING...
I WILL NOT FORGET THAT MOMENT!
I GOT TO HOLD HIS HAND AS THE BELLS RUNG IN THE NEW YEAR EVEN IF I DIE.
I HAD A TEMPERATURE OF 40 DEGREES C DURING THE NIGHT
YOU'RE RIGHT. I HAVE TO STAY WELL FOR MY EXAM.
WE'D BETTER NOT GET ANY CLOSER OR WE'LL CATCH IT, TOO.
WHAT'S SHE MUMBLING ABOUT?
I WILL LIVE ON, SO I CAN GO SEE THE FLOATING ICE WITH YOU AS A COUPLE!!



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